



THE TIMES



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MONDAY DECEMBER 4 1995



THE BEST FOR SPORT - on 12 pages

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All the weekend action: SECTION 2



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Daddy's girls

Talented, flirtatious and hungry for fame
PAGE 17

Major and Queen to discuss future amid fear of controversy abroad

Princess faces opposition to role as envoy

By Philip Webster and Lin Jenkins

MINISTERS and Buckingham Palace officials are seeking to limit any formal ambassadorial role for the Princess of Wales amid fears that she could find herself embroiled in political controversy overseas.

John Major and the Queen are expected to continue discussions about the Princess's future at the Prime Minister's weekly audience tomorrow. This follows her visit to the Palace last week, when she is reported to have outlined the job she wishes to pursue for Britain overseas.

In the same week, she also gave a brief interview to the *News of the World*, explaining why she makes regular late night visits to comfort the sick and dying in hospital. She told the newspaper: "It is something I love doing."

Ministers concerned about a role for her abroad, believe it would be unfair to place her in a position where she was expected to speak for Britain on politically sensitive issues. "We could not trust her with a brief," a senior minister said.

The Princess took her proposals to the Palace for a lengthy session with Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, after returning from her four-day visit to Argentina.

But ministers said yesterday that while the Government was happy to see a wider role for the Princess - reflecting her deep popularity in the country - they were against the idea of a formal ambassadorial role.

A government source said that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Douglas Hurd, his predecessor, admired the Princess for the professional and competent manner in which she conducted her overseas visits. But he doubted whether this should be turned into a structured envoy role.

A senior minister said the Princess should have a position similar to that of the Princess Royal, who has been praised for her charity work overseas, particularly as president of Save the Children. "The monarchy plays a very important part in representing Britain and she does it well. We are happy to see her in the Royal Britannia role - but we are not looking for her to become a David Owen type figure," one minister said.

Suggestions that ministers are jealous of the attention the Princess has received overseas are dismissed as "rubbish" by senior government sources. But ministers were privately nervous over her visit to Argentina, fearing that it might present Britain as too conciliatory towards the Menem Government. In the event, the trip went off without a hitch.

The talks between the Princess and the Palace, which were initiated by senior royal aides after her *Panorama* interview, were said to have been amiable, but no conclusions are expected to be reached for some time.

The discussions came as a poll showed that seven out of

ten people supported her wish to become "queen of hearts".

The Prince of Wales is not involved in the meetings about his wife's future. However, as the debate continued, he appeared to be giving public support to his close friend, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, who condemned the Princess as "paranoid" after her interview.

Mr Soames, who was silenced by the Prime Minister after his outburst, spent the weekend at Sandringham, where he was seen walking and in deep discussion with the Princess.

Senior members of the royal household are keen to offer guidance to the Princess and to avoid becoming embroiled in any vindictive exchange which might drive her further in the direction of running her own show.

However, their first problem is to sort out who will become her new press adviser after the resignation of Geoffrey Crawford, the Queen's deputy press secretary, when he was not informed of her decision to give the *Panorama* interview.

A survey for *The Sunday Times* showed that since her *Panorama* interview, the Princess had attracted more public sympathy. Two weeks ago only 27 per cent of people had sympathy for her, but the figure has risen to 39 per cent. The Princess of Wales's sympathy rating has dropped from 10 per cent to 8 per cent.

Visits to dying, page 3



The Princess pictured after one of her late night hospital visits to comfort the sick

Clarke leads campaign to preserve welfare state

By Philip Webster Political Editor

A FIERCE internal battle over the Conservative election manifesto was signalled yesterday amid indications that Kenneth Clarke will spearhead a campaign to prevent any further moves to the right over Europe and the welfare state.

With Conservative MPs beginning to break ranks over the apparent failure of the Budget to improve their fortunes, senior ministers mounted a concerted campaign in defence of Mr Clarke and the Budget, with Michael Heseltine calling him a "rock of a Chancellor" who would refuse to panic. At the same time, Mr Clarke shaped up for a struggle with the Right by making plain that he would resist demands for a radical scaling down of the welfare state, stressing that he would put protection of pensions, child benefit and the health service in front of tax cuts.

It has also emerged that Mr Clarke will fight any attempt within the Cabinet to commit the Conservatives in their manifesto against going into a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament.

The threat of a fresh Tory split comes as ministers consider fresh plans to cut the £6 billion a year cost of child benefit. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, is looking at proposals which would reduce the benefit for working mothers on comfortable incomes. Under it child benefit would continue for non-working mothers, but it would be converted into a child tax allowance for the 4.3 million mothers who go to work. Mr Clarke, however, is determined to oppose any radical changes in the system. He told reporters over the weekend: "Any tax and benefit system

has got to take account of children."

Defending his Budget decision to increase spending on health and education by £2 billion and to limit to 1p the cut in the basic rate of tax, Mr Clarke said: "I win more votes and I safeguard more votes by putting it into public services."

The Chancellor is also making plain that he will not be forced into big tax cuts in the next Budget. "We won't win the next election if we are perceived to be bribing the electorate."

Mr Heseltine yesterday virtually ruled out a general election until 1997. Speaking on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, he said: "We don't see ourselves fighting an election until 1997. We have a strategy for the parliament."

Both Mr Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney, party chairman, insist that the Budget changes and improving economic conditions will leave the average earner £9 a week better off next year. Labour says people would only benefit by that amount if average pay rose by an inflation-beating 4 per cent. "Either the Government was lying or they have a new pay policy of 4 per cent in mind," said John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader. "If there is no such pay policy, then Brian Mawhinney, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke have to withdraw the £9-a-week figure immediately."

An NOP poll carried out after the Budget and published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday, shows Labour stretching its lead to 32 points. The poll also showed that 71 per cent now distrusted the Tories on taxation.

Peter Riddell, page 18

Tornado loses in dogfights

The RAF's Tornado F3 can be out-performed in air-to-air combat by more than 50 airforces around the world, according to an assessment passed to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

This evidence will contribute to the debate over whether to upgrade the Tornado F3 or lease American F16s... Page 2

Forte fights on

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman of the Forte hotels and restaurants group, has appointed Roberto Mendoza to help him to fend off Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid. Forte has sold its Lillywhites sports stores to a Portuguese retailer for £28.5 million... Page 44

Jimmy Jewel dies

Jimmy Jewel, the comic actor from Sheffield whose career spanned music hall, television and straight acting, died on the eve of his 83rd birthday... Page 3

French strike spreads as union leaders raise stakes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE most disruptive French strike for a decade will get dramatically worse this week as telephone, electricity, education and health workers join public transport employees to protest against the planned overhaul of the debt-burdened welfare system.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, refused to back down in the face of spreading public sector strikes yesterday, despite fears that the stoppage is undermining the economy. "The reforms are necessary," Alain Lamassouire, the Prime Minister's spokesman, insisted, after M Juppé called a crisis meeting to discuss the deteriorating situation with cabinet ministers. President Chirac also reaffirmed support for M Juppé's controversial reforms.

Until now unions have demanded only some changes to M Juppé's welfare proposals, which include new taxation

and deep spending cuts. Over the weekend, however, the stakes were raised when union leaders called for the entire Juppé plan to be jettisoned.

A crippling 11-day strike by railway staff and other public transport workers shows no

signs of ending after talks between unions and the Government collapsed leaving train, underground and bus services in paralysis. Striking electricity workers have sharply reduced production and power cuts are expected this week.

"A cold spell could have

terrible consequences," *Le Journal du Dimanche* warned. Mail services have been badly disrupted as postal workers join the strike in growing numbers and telephone company employees are also expected to stop work from today.

Public sector unions have called on workers in private companies to take part in a general stoppage tomorrow when university students will take to the streets. A meeting between striking students and François Bayrou, the Education Minister, ended in deadlock yesterday.

Groups representing doctors, airline employees, journalists, prison staff, tax inspectors and police are also calling for strike action. Some 20,000 employees of the Bank of France will strike later this week.

Leading article, page 19

Clinton sends in Bosnia troops

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT CLINTON, shrugging off tough talk by the Bosnian Serb military leader, announced yesterday that he had cleared the dispatch of 700 American troops as part of a 2,500-strong Nato "enabling force".

Mr Clinton attached little importance to the objections of General Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Serb army commander, who said on Saturday that some parts of the American-brokered Bosnia agreement that was reached at Dayton, Ohio, would have to be reworked to prevent his people having to live "under butchers' rule".

During a visit to American troops headed for Bosnia from an army base in southern Germany, Mr Clinton told them: "If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately and with decisive force".

Mr Clinton heaped praise on Javier Solana, the Nato

Secretary-General designate, calling him one of Europe's great leaders, and signed a "new transatlantic agenda" in Madrid with Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission.

"Our destiny in America is still linked to Europe," Mr Clinton said at the signing. Mr Santer responded: "It is an historic moment for transatlantic relations. We will lead by example."

At a state dinner in Madrid attended by King Juan Carlos, Mr Clinton told guests: "I wish tonight that I could have a conversation with the great Spanish writer Cervantes because I feel as if we are now living in a time when we can tilt at windmills and find victory."

Bosnia bickering, page 12
Transatlantic pact, page 13

America hopes to buy two Crown Jewels

By DALYA ALBERGE

HERITAGE groups are making desperate attempts to block the export to America of two magnificent crowns worn by six British monarchs at coronations and state openings of Parliament. They have been given until January 24 to raise almost £1 million to buy them and return them to

the Tower of London, where they were held from 1715 until 1838.

The Imperial State Crown of George I and the Coronation Crown of George IV are owned by Asprey Antiques, the Bond Street dealer. There is likely to be widespread dismay that the Government should even contemplate allowing them to leave the country. The

attempt to keep the crowns is being led by the Historic Royal Palaces, the government agency which manages the Tower. As it is not officially allowed to buy anything, the most likely solution would be for the Victoria and Albert Museum to purchase them and pass them on to the Tower.

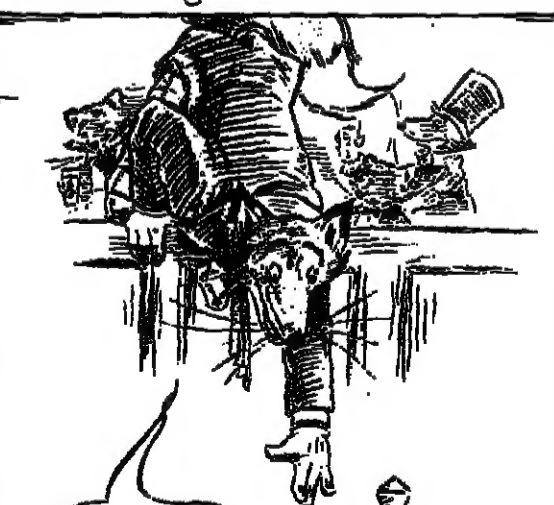
"The story of the Crown Jewels cannot seriously be told without these

two crowns," Richard Edgcombe, a V & A curator, said. "They were central to the most important ceremonies of British constitutional government."

The National Art Collections Fund has pledged £30,000, but unless all the money can be raised, the crowns seem certain to go to America.

Sale mystery, page 3

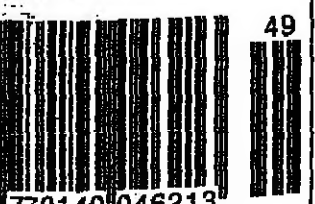
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY
PLAY TO WIN
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WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL FASHION

Christmas must-haves from the high street
PLUS: In Interface, £4,000 of CD-Roms to be won

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

Michael Douglas in *The American President*, and other new releases
PLUS: John Bryant on sport, and the Appointments section

FRIDAY

POP

Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians

PLUS: Bernard Levin, Valerie Grove and Education

SATURDAY

MAKE A DOG'S DAY

The pet-owner's guide to acceptable presents, in *Weekend*PLUS: The Magazine, Car 95, Weekend Money, 1015, for young Times readers and *Vision*, the 7-day TV and radio guideEVERY DAY THIS WEEK:
A HOLIDAY FOR TWO TO BE WON

Loyalists reject Trimble's farewell to arms

BY NICHOLAS WATT
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LOYALISTS accused David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, of trying to manipulate Protestant paramilitaries last night as they rejected his appeal to disarm before the IRA.

The Ulster Democratic Party and the Progressive Unionist Party, which have links to loyalist terrorists, said there was "no question" of any decommissioning by loyalists while the IRA remained armed.

The move came as the Government played down suggestions that it was weakening the so-called Washington 3 demand, which requires the IRA to start giving up weapons before being admitted to

all-party talks. However, senior sources reiterated that if other ways could be found of building confidence among Unionists they would be looked at. A number of weekend reports suggested that a new formula under which arms would be decommissioned in parallel with all-party talks rather than before them was under consideration.

But British ministers insisted that Washington 3 stood because the Unionists had made clear that without it there would be no guarantee of their commitment to non-violent means. While the Government did not hold to Washington 3 "by dogma" it would insist on it unless the Unionists were satisfied by other gestures, possibly by Sinn Féin taking part in a new elected

assembly in Northern Ireland. The loyalist backlash came after Mr Trimble confirmed yesterday that he had called on loyalist paramilitaries to put pressure on the IRA by decommissioning some of its arms. He told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "If only the loyalist paramilitaries would move, then that would deprive the IRA of any scintilla of justification for holding on to their weapons."

Mr Trimble was speaking after *The Observer* reported that he had called on one of his Belfast city councillors to talk to an intermediary on the question of loyalist arms hours before last Tuesday's late night Anglo-Irish summit. Mr Trimble's intervention drew a furious response from Gary McMichael,

leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, which has links to the Ulster Defence Association. The UDP leader said: "His analysis is a non-runner and there is no question of any physical gesture on decommissioning ahead of the IRA — not while the Provisionals remain fully operational."

Mr McMichael said that Mr Trimble's proposals were discussed, but discounted immediately. He added: "It was seen as an attempt to try and manipulate the paramilitary organisations. They have had enough bitter experiences of that in the past and they were not prepared to fall into another trap." David Ervine, of the Progressive Unionists, which has links to the Ulster Volunteer Force, echoed Mr McMichael's

comments when he accused Mr Trimble of playing games. He added: "I can't fully understand what these games are other than the suggestion might be that to apply pressure on the IRA is a good idea. The notion that someone might pressure them is a nonsense."

The arms issue led to clashes on *Breakfast with Frost* between Mr Trimble and John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, on the eve of their first formal talks since Mr Trimble's election as leader of the Ulster Unionists in September. Mr Hume said that Sinn Féin should be invited to all party talks on the strength of the IRA ceasefire while Mr Trimble insisted that the IRA must decommission some of its arms before all party talks can begin.

Government's hard line will please Tory Euro-sceptics

Britain opposes extension of EU majority voting

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN will find itself at odds with its Brussels partners again tomorrow when the Government announces its outright opposition to any further extension of majority voting in the European Union.

The hard line, which will please Tory Euro-sceptics, will become clear with the publication of the report of the Reflection Group, which has spent the past six months preparing an outline agenda for next year's conference on the future of the union.

After the group, headed by Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish Minister of European Affairs, has published its report in Brussels, David Davis, the Minister for European Affairs and Britain's representative on the group, will explain why he has opposed any further weakening of the veto of individual member states. He is also against an extension of the powers of the European Parliament and the handing over of any powers on law and order and immigration to the union.

The report, obtained by *The Times*, will be discussed by European leaders at their summit in Madrid later this

month, but Britain's opposition means that the agenda for next year's conference is already looking threadbare.

The European Commission is dismayed at the group's failure to chart a clear path to deeper integration. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, is hammering together an alternative which will counter the Westendorp effort.

Britain is singled out as the lone dissenter in three main areas of the nine-page final draft, including the extension of majority voting and more powers for the European parliament. But London has a minority of allies in most other fields, notably in its resistance to more common foreign policy and control of immigration and police work.

In striking contrast to the bold rhetoric that marked the Maastricht run-up, the Reflection Group sounds defensive. "For a growing number of Europeans today, the rationale for Community integration is not self-evident," says its preamble. "In Western Europe, there is a growing sense of public disaffection... We need to explain clearly to our citizens why the union,

which is so attractive to others in Europe, remains necessary for us too."

Among the few areas in which Señor Westendorp reports consensus is the aim that the inter-governmental conference "should focus on necessary changes, without embarking on a complete revision of the treaty". No state, in particular, wants to touch the Maastricht provisions for monetary union.

Germany and the federal-minded smaller states are disappointed over the stew of conflicting options listed by Señor Westendorp. French officials are scornful of what one senior diplomat calls a "complete waste of time".

President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl are meeting on Thursday to try to galvanise the proceedings with a bolder Franco-German recipe for the inter-governmental conference. This is expected to include French concessions to qualified majority voting in some fields, though not foreign policy and justice affairs. In a plan to reweight the vote in favour of the big states, Germany would acquire more clout than other members.



Sir James Goldsmith being interviewed yesterday. He will stand for a Surrey seat at the election

Prescott looks for votes in Australia

John Prescott has launched a campaign to win votes in Australia. The Labour deputy leader has reached an agreement with Kim Beazley, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, who is to set up a unit to encourage Britons living in Australia to vote in British elections.

More than 700,000 Australian residents are eligible to register to vote in British elections and Labour believes the country offers a natural base for support, having elected five successive Labor governments. The Labour Party, keen to learn from the electoral successes of its Australian counterpart, and anxious to counter the Conservatives' success in attracting the overseas vote, is to set up party branches in Sydney and Perth.

Language pledge

A Labour government would extend the national curriculum to make foreign language learning compulsory for all children from the age of seven. The plan, to be announced tomorrow, comes as the Association of Language Learning said foreign languages began at primary school level in almost every other European country.

Cheap flights off

The first British travel company to offer cut-price round trips between South Africa and Britain has been ordered to close its Johannesburg sales centre and refund more than 400 passengers who had planned to visit Britain. Bluebird Express has been told that its licence does not allow it to start return journeys from South Africa.

TUC legal plan

Trades unions should be able to seek legal aid funds so they can help workers to obtain "fair, fast and effective" settlements in disputes with employers, the TUC says today. In *Justice for Working People* the TUC calls for an overhaul of the legal system to improve access to justice and for a free legal advice service network.

Mortgage scam

Millions of homeowners are paying interest on mortgage debt they have already repaid because lenders have not upgraded their computer systems. Britain's biggest lenders admitted yesterday that customers were paying interest charges based on the size of their loan at the start of the year, even though the debt was being reduced monthly.

Apes in danger

Africa's great apes face extinction as timber companies destroy their natural habitat and workers kill them for food, according to conservationists. The World Society for the Protection of Animals says timber workers are so short of food that they are forced to rely on meat from illegally slaughtered chimps and gorillas.

Goldsmith promises to fight for referendum

BY JOANNA BAILE

POLITICIANS were dismissed as "fifth-rate" by Sir James Goldsmith yesterday as he stepped up his campaign for a referendum on Europe.

The multimillionaire, who funds the Referendum Party, plans to field candidates at the general election in every constituency where the sitting MP refuses to endorse the need for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty.

Some Conservatives fear that his move could affect the outcome of the election, taking votes away from their party in marginal seats.

In an interview for BBC's *On the Record*, Sir James told the interviewer John Humphrys: "You're very impressed by politicians. I'm not. I think they're fifth-rate, the bunch of

them." His candidates would be "normal and ordinary people".

Sir James, 62, a French MEP, intends to fight a Surrey constituency in the election. He denied that his proposal to field hundreds of candidates was a bluff. "I have never bluffed. We will go through to the end, come what may. This is the single most important battle one can possibly have."

He said that denying people the right to a referendum on Maastricht was tantamount to treason. "It was forced through because there was no alternative, people had no right to vote for or against. They either had to vote for the Labour Party or for the Conservative, both of which were peddling Maastricht." He denied that the referendum on entry to the European Community made the nation's agreement with Maastricht implicit.

The referendum took place about the Treaty of Rome, about staying in Europe on the basis of no loss of sovereignty," Sir James said.

Maastricht had stripped Britain of that sovereignty, he said. "British law as passed by Parliament is no longer supreme. It is thousands of regulations and directives passed in Brussels, in secret, by unelected bureaucrats who are now dominant, supreme in this country."

He denied that his move would damage the cause of many Euro-sceptic MPs. "It is not destructive at all."

Third-world planes can outgun ageing Tornado

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF's frontline "dog-fight" aircraft, the Tornado F3, can be outperformed by more than 50 airforces around the world, according to a detailed assessment passed to Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary.

The countries with aircraft which could outperform the Tornado in combat include Algeria, Libya, North Korea, Pakistan and Serbia, which has Russian-built MiG29s. The evidence that the RAF is now falling dramatically down the performance league table is being considered as part of the debate over whether to upgrade the Tornado F3 or to lease F16s from the United States.

Many of the countries overtaking Britain are Third World nations that have acquired top-rank Russian fighters. The aircraft capable of defeating the Tornado F3 have been listed as the MiG29 and Su27, the French Mirage 2000, the Swedish Gripen and the American F16, F15, F15 and F14. Non-Nato countries

which are either equipped with Tornado-beating fighters or have superior air defence aircraft on order also include Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The debate inside the Ministry of Defence is one of the most heated for years. Mr Portillo is due to announce his decision later this month.

He has made it clear that he has three options: to upgrade the F3 with new missile systems, to scrap the Tornado and lease F16s to fill the gap before the multi-role Euro-fighter comes into service next century, or to carry on with the F3 as it is without spending £115 million on upgrading it.

RAF sources said they feared that Mr Portillo might take the "do nothing" option. However, the Defence Secretary knows this would mean taking a huge gamble.

One defence source said: "Britain won't be able to go to war with an air-defence aircraft that is outclassed by so many rival fighters."

To enable the RAF's Tornado F3 to compete with or

outclass these countries' airforces, it needs to be fitted with the Amraam weapon system — an advanced medium-range air-to-air missile. Some of Mr Portillo's advisers have insisted that this would be a waste of money and have recommended that he lease F16s. However, RAF chiefs claim the F16 option would be more expensive.

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هكذا من الأصل

Glories of Georgian coronations fell into private ownership

Foreign buyers eye historic crowns

Dalya Alberge
finds a mysterious
40-year gap in the
story of royal
emblems whose
rightful home
is the Tower

AS A battle royal began yesterday to keep two historic crowns in Britain, there was bewilderment over why they had not been kept safe in the Tower of London.

The Imperial State Crown of George I is valued at £576,000 and the Coronation Crown of George IV at £376,000. But their importance to the national heritage is almost priceless. The state crown, thought to date from 1715, was adapted for the coronations of George II and William IV and as the state crown of George III and George IV. State crowns were used at the opening of Parliament and Victoria is believed to have used George I's regalia in the first year of her reign.

Asprey Antiques has acquired the crowns from a private collection and has made applications for their export. Charles Truman, a director, said: "I cannot think of anything more central to our heritage than the crowns of England. Our principal concern is that they should remain in this country, but as a commercial organisation we have a duty to our shareholders and owners."

Mr Truman said that the crowns appear to have been held until 1838 by the royal goldsmiths, Rundell, Bridge and Rundell. "When they closed down in the early 1840s, it seems that the crowns were quietly disposed of, for reasons one can only guess at now."

There was a 40-year gap in which their whereabouts were unknown. In 1887 they were acquired by Lord Amherst of Hackney, a bibliophile. A correspondent of *The World* who visited his library expressed amazement at seeing the crowns which "everyone else innocently believed to be safe in the Tower of London".

From 1935 to 1985 they were on loan to Kensington Palace and the Museum of London.



Alison Cole of the National Art Collections Fund with the Coronation Crown of George IV, left, and the Imperial State Crown of George I. The former is 36cm (14.2in) tall, made of gold and silver and valued at £376,000. George IV insisted on a specially commissioned crown for the most lavish of coronations.

A contemporary reported: "The magnificent crown of brilliance that adorned the head of His Majesty reflected a blaze of light and colours

perfectly dazzling to behold as the subbeams fell directly upon it."

The monarch hoped that the Government would buy him a diamond-set crown but efforts to persuade ministers were in vain. The diamonds were hired for three years at a cost of £20,000 because of various delays.

George IV was closely involved in the crown's innovative design. It has arches of oak leaves and acorns, chosen because he wanted something particularly English. It also features

fleur-de-lis, although the King was concerned about their association with France.

George I's crown, valued at £576,000, is 19.5cm (7.7in) tall and made of gold, silver and silver-gilt. It is believed to have been made in 1715, after George I's Coronation. It was used at George II's Coronation and at the opening of Parliament throughout his reign. It served as the State Crown throughout George III's reign; a bill in the Royal Household

accounts records that it was cleaned and fitted for his head.

It was carried before George IV at the opening of Parliament in 1820, and at his Coronation, though not as the actual coronation crown. Without alteration, it was used at William IV's Coronation, and as his State Crown. It was probably carried before Queen Victoria when she entered Parliament after her accession in 1837. From 1715 to 1838, the V&A says, this was the most important of all crowns.

cannot seriously be told without these two crowns." Richard Edgcombe, curator of jewellery at the V&A, said, "The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's leading art charity, has pledged £300,000 for their purchase. David Barrie, its director, said: "We hope that our contribution and the weight of our support for the crown will help them to find a permanent home in Britain." Until the reign of

George III, the State Crown of George I was displayed with the other Crown Jewels in the Tower of London when not in use. The only crown that is more significant, according to the V&A, is the 1661 St Edward's Crown in the Tower, which regained its role as the coronation crown in 1911.

Although the George I crown was carried at George IV's coronation in 1821, the future king insisted on a

commissioned coronation crown. He worked closely with the royal goldsmiths on an innovative design that included arches of oak leaves and acorns and open settings that allowed the diamonds to shine with greater brilliance.

His estranged wife Caroline, the Princess of Wales, missed her husband's big day. She was barred from Westminster Abbey during the ceremony.

Scientists ready for mammoth task in Norfolk

By JOHN SHAW

THE skull and one tusk of a 10-ton prehistoric elephant which roamed Britain over 500,000 years ago is about to be removed from cliffs in Norfolk. The massive fossil skeleton, the most complete example of its kind in the world, was in danger of being washed out to sea by coastal erosion and winter storms at West Runton near Cromer.

A £40,000 lottery grant was announced in the summer and preparations are in hand for the final stage of the five-year project to be carried out on Friday. The fragile skull and two-metre-long tusk have been swathed in plaster bandages, which will be covered by fibreglass resin and a cage so that the entire remains can be removed in a block by crane.

Dr Tony Stewart, a geologist at the Castle Museum, Norwich, and project director, said yesterday: "It is a long project, but at least we've got most of the skeleton apart from the feet and one or two other bones. It is very exciting. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing to excavate something as important as this."

"A whole load of research and conservation has to be done now, not just on the elephant but on all the other fossils from the site, the plants, the molluscs and the beetles." The remains are likely to go on show at the museum in four years' time after research is complete.

The missing bones were probably taken by hyenas feeding on the elephant when it died. The remains were found in an ancient seam of riverbed and forest which now runs along the shore. Walkers sounded the alarm when they saw a pelvis and an ankle bone sticking out of the cliff.

Dr Stewart said the animal was earlier and bigger than the better-known woolly mammoth: "about ten tons in weight, four metres high at the shoulder and about double the size of a modern African elephant."

The West Runton example is believed to be one of only three known and is in better condition than those found in West Germany and Russia.



Jewel: character actor

Comedy legend Jimmy Jewel dies

JIMMY JEWEL, for decades one of the country's best-known comedians, died yesterday. Friends said his death came on the eve of his 83rd birthday, and only a dozen years since he was reaching new audiences with the National Theatre.

Jewel's career took him from music hall to television stardom and ended with acclaim for his straight acting. He first became nationally known in a double act with his cousin Ben Warriss, appearing on radio and in variety theatres.

After that partnership broke up, he found a second career as character actor. He is remembered by millions of television viewers for his partnership with Hylda Baker in the long-running 1970s series *Nearest and Dearest*.

Jewel, who bore the battered look of a downtrodden bloodhound, was one of a small group of music hall artists who made the successful transition to straight acting and received wide acclaim for his performances in West End plays such as *The Comedians* and *Death of a Salesman*.

Vince Powell, who co-wrote the first series of *Nearest and Dearest*, said Jewel died peacefully in his flat in Kensington, west London. He had not been well for some time. His wife Belle died ten years ago, and his son, Kerry, and adopted daughter live abroad.

Jewel also made cameo appearances in recent television series, including *One Foot in the Grave* and *Casualty*.

Princess 'inspired' by visits to the dying

By LIN JENKINS

THE Princess of Wales has let it be known that she makes regular visits to comfort the sick and dying in hospital. Two or three times a week she sits at the bedside of patients who are terminally ill and have no friends or relatives to offer support.

The Princess drives herself from Kensington Palace for the incognito night-time visits to two of London's leading hospitals. She arrives dressed in jeans and baseball cap for the sessions.

Details emerged when the Princess spoke to the *News of the World* after being photographed last Wednesday at the end of one of her visits. Clive Goodman, the newspaper's royal editor, called the photographer on his mobile telephone as he was taking pictures of the Princess. She asked to speak to him and asked for the hospitals not to be identified in order that she could continue the work.

She told the newspaper that the visits had been going on for some time. Comforting the ill and dying brought its own reward. "The visits can be inspirational. It is something I love doing."

She said the patients needed someone to talk to. All were strangers to her and while some knew who she was, others did not. She deliberately visited at night after other visitors had left and when she was less likely to be spotted.

"Some will live and some won't live, but they all need to be loved while they're here," she said. She simply held their hands and talked to them. "I

try to be there for them. I really love helping. I seem to draw strength from them."

The Royal Brompton Hospital in London, which specialises in the treatment of heart and lung conditions, is believed to be one of those the Princess has visited in private during the past four months. Reporters were gathered outside yesterday and were also at the gates of the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea, which is renowned for its treatment of those suffering from cancer.

Professor Gerald Russell, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Haynes Grove Priory Hospital, Hayes, Kent, and a leading authority on eating disorders such as the bulimia suffered by the Princess, said

the wish to help others who are ill could be seen as a sign of someone recovering from their own medical problems.

"When we have a psychological illness we do need to convey our distress through words or behaviour. But compassion doesn't necessarily come with recovery from these illnesses, it depends on the personality of the person themselves."

The visits are seen as part of the Princess's wish, expressed in the *Panorama* interview, to have a clearly defined role and become the "queen of hearts".

One of the stronger critics of that interview, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, spent the weekend at Sandringham with the Prince of Wales.



The Prince and Soames: weekend at Sandringham

Occult gave Newton the fruit of his labours

By A STAFF REPORTER

ISAAC NEWTON discovered gravity not from watching an apple fall from a tree but during sinister experiments with the occult, a new biography claims.

Michael White, the author, says that Newton's status as president of the Royal Society, and his recognition by succeeding generations as one of the great figures of science and mathematics, concealed a less reputable private life. In *The Last Sorcerer*, to be published next year, Mr White says that Newton was addicted to books about magic, which were secretly imported from the Continent.

In his youth Newton was fascinated by alchemy, a pseudo-science which sought a method of changing base metals into gold and silver, an elixir which would prolong life indefinitely and a universal remedy for all illnesses. Not surprisingly, it was condemned by the churches as superstition and the work of the Devil.

It was during his experiments to discover a "universal force" that Newton noted that certain substances failed to evaporate when heated and must therefore be subject to a force which held them down. Realising that he had indeed made a significant discovery, he concealed the circumstances by inventing the delightful story of the apple in the orchard of the family home at Woolsthorpe Manor, near Grantham, Lincolnshire. Mr White says.

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Woman dragged a mile to her death

By RICHARD DUCK

A LAND ROVER driver knocked down and killed a woman who was walking her dogs, dragging her beneath the vehicle for more than a mile before stopping. Alexis Mitchell, 29, is expected to be interviewed today about the death of Margaret Whieldon, 43, a mother of two, who died near her home in Leek, Staffordshire.

Mrs Mitchell was walking her two dogs in thick fog on Friday night along a lane

which has no pavements when she was struck by the Land Rover. Miss Mitchell, also from Leek, is thought to have driven on for about a mile before she stopped and called the police.

A police spokesman said last night: "We have no idea why the driver did not stop and that is a matter for the investigating officer. We can only assume that it was because of panic but we will not know for certain until she has been questioned."

"This was obviously an horrific acci-

dent and we will not know at what point Mrs Whieldon died until after a post-mortem examination. We do not yet know how Mrs Whieldon was hit."

Police have appealed for witnesses to the crash, which happened at 10pm. The dogs were not injured. Mrs Whieldon worked as a cleaner at a hospital in Leek.

Her brother-in-law Peter Whieldon, 32, said: "We are devastated that we lost her in such a terrible accident. Her death has ripped the heart out of this family."



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Activists' leader clings to power after acrimonious meeting

No-confidence vote gags director of anti-hunting lobby

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S oldest pressure group opposed to blood sports was heading for self-destruction yesterday after failing to resolve internal feuding over the future of its head official, who has angered activists with his views on fox-hunting.

James Barrington, the embattled head of the League Against Cruel Sports, was clinging to office despite a vote of no confidence in him being passed by a narrow majority at an acrimonious meeting of the body's 12-man executive committee on Saturday that lasted eight-and-a-half hours.

Although he remains executive director, Mr Barrington has been told he must no longer talk to the press about his controversial views on fox-hunting — the main cause of the dispute. He declined to comment yesterday.

Howard Hodges, who was elected new chairman of the committee and is a Barrington supporter, said: "The whole issue is to be put to an EGM [extraordinary general meeting] of the league early in January." This was challenged by John Bryant, the league's head of press relations and Mr Barrington's most vociferous opponent. He said: "I doubt that there will be agreement to hold an EGM. In my view such a meeting would be a disaster. It would just be a highly public washing of dirty linen."

Even if the EGM voted to dismiss Mr Barrington, his supporters could still demand a postal ballot of all the league's 17,000 voting members. I cannot think of a better way of ensuring that the league does nothing about fox-hunting for the next six months. If the committee has no confidence in Mr Barrington he should go now."

Lord Soper, the 92-year-old president of the league, who chaired Saturday's meeting until Mr Hodges had been elected, is strongly in favour of an EGM. "I think this is the only way of getting a fair hearing for all aspects of the dispute," he said.

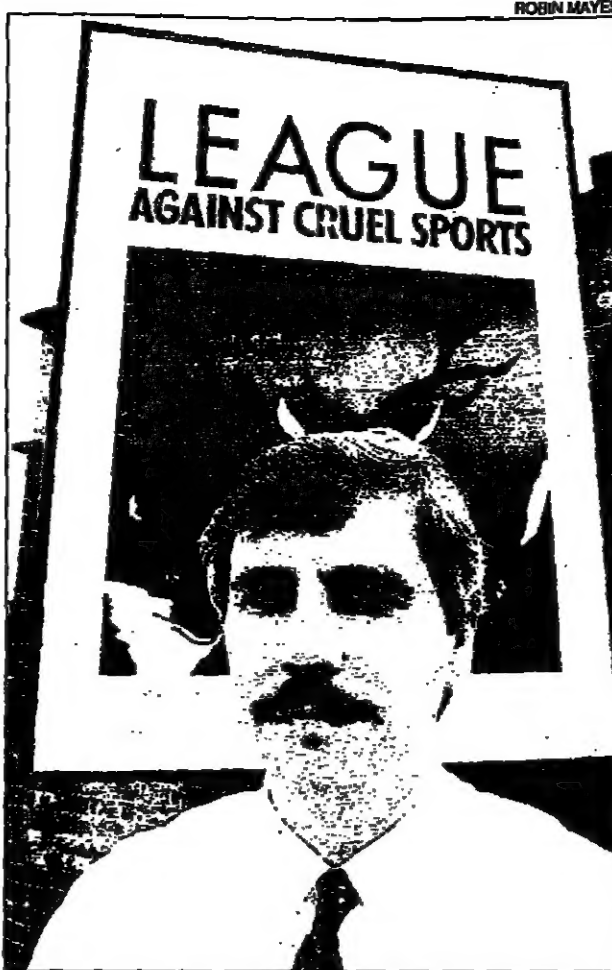
The committee's failure to remove Mr Barrington will infuriate grassroots activists who have been demanding his resignation since October over remarks he made to *The Field* magazine in which appeared to water down the league's opposition to fox-hunting.

Mr Barrington suggested that if hunts abolished terrier work — the practice of sending dogs after foxes that have gone to ground — "the league would feel less antagonistic towards hunting and it would have a new lease of life". He compounded his crime by giving an interview to the *Shooting Times* in which he described his opponents as "screaming banshees" and extremists who were trying to stage an undemocratic takeover within the league.

Mr Hodges, formerly treasurer, was appointed on Saturday to replace Ian Blake-Lawson, the previous chairman, who resigned last month after admitting that he had been unable to resolve the dispute over Mr Barrington's future.

Despite his sympathy for Mr Barrington, Mr Hodges was overruled when he argued that Mr Barrington should be allowed to send a reasoned defence of his fox-hunting views to all league members.

The hunting lobby can barely conceal its glee but seems uncertain how best to exploit rifts within the league. Janet George, spokeswoman of the British Field Sports Society, said: "Whatever happens there could be benefits for us. The lunatics have come so close to taking over the asylum, they won't give up now."



James Barrington's comments angered colleagues

Who's who in dispute at the top

James Barrington: Aged 43. Executive director since 1988. Says the league should discuss something less than a total ban on hunting.

John Bryant: Aged 53. Vegetarian. Joined league in 1971. Now head of press relations. Seen by Barrington as ring-leader of "extremists". Wrote a book in early 1980s called *Fettered Kingdoms* arguing that pet-owning was "a form of slavery".

Lord Soper: Aged 92. Life-long opponent of fox-hunting. President of league since 1988. Regards some of Barrington's remarks to *The Field* as unwise, but not grounds for dismissal. Has had huge postbag from league members critical of Barrington.

Howard Hodges: New chairman of league's executive committee. Aged 33. Member of league since 1980. Treasurer since 1987. Barrington sympathiser. Thinks some in the league do not want hunting made less cruel because that might lessen pressure for outright ban.

Moscow mafia slips through net with £1.4m

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH detectives have been forced to hand back to the Russian mafia £1.4 million being laundered through the banking system. At the same time, investigations against several suspects have been dropped because the Moscow authorities failed to provide crucial evidence.

Police believe the money was extracted from the Russian Government as advance payments on fraudulent contracts promising deliveries of food and oil. To keep it and to press charges, the police and Crown Prosecution Service needed evidence from the Russians to show that it was the proceeds of crime.

The Russian authorities were told about the investigation last December, but appeals for help disappeared into Moscow's bureaucracy and never emerged. After police were forced to release the money, it was last seen heading for two Hungarian bank accounts.

Senior officers and money laundering experts at the

Southeast Regional Crime Squad accept they have lost the cash, but say they have destroyed a highly successful, £53 million money laundering operation. Police believe that over three years the proceeds from fraud, prostitution, drugs and arms deals vanished through companies in London and the Channel Islands.

The investigation originated with a tip from MI5 to the National Criminal Intelligence Service. Under the laundering scheme, cash from Russian banks thought to be controlled by the mafia was moved through Britain to another network of companies in the United States and Canada. The companies were involved in the import/export business and some did do genuine business as well as acting as a cover.

Eventually, the cleansed money went into numbered accounts in Switzerland and Austria. Other cash went to Russian emigrés on America's West Coast.

Charity puts boot into makers of sports shoes

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A LEADING charity has attacked sports shoe companies for exploiting overseas workers while paying millions of pounds to sports stars to endorse their trainers.

While high-profile players such as Andre Agassi receive millions of pounds in promotional contracts, production workers for Nike, Adidas, Puma and Reebok in Asia often work for as little as £3 a day, according to a Christian Aid report today.

Typically, 40 workers in factories in the Philippines share £1 of the average £50 retail price of trainers in Britain. Christian Aid is urging sports companies to improve pay and conditions for its workers, often young women, in Thailand, China and the Philippines.

The report's authors, Bethan Brooks and Peter Madden, say that workers who try to organise unions have been fired, health and safety conditions are sub-standard and overtime is often enforced at appalling rates. A Reebok shoe can cost £38 to £44 in Britain but labour costs less than £1.30.

The £25 million deal with Reebok reportedly lined up by the Liverpool football team would be enough to more than double the wages of the 40,000 workers who make Reebok trainers in China and the Philippines, the report says.

Reebok said in a statement that it had a strong commitment to maintaining good workplace conditions in its factories and had a rigorous code of conduct setting standards for fair wages, working hours, enforced labour and health and safety.

Forbidding planet may give clues to weather

By A STAFF REPORTER

SCIENTISTS are hoping that an improvement in weather forecasts will result from a six-year space voyage expected to reach its climax this week. Astronomers around the world are awaiting the arrival of the unmanned spacecraft *Galileo* at Jupiter after a 300 million-mile journey.

On Thursday a tiny probe that was launched from the spacecraft last July will become the first manmade object to enter Jupiter's atmosphere. It will transmit information about the planet for 75 minutes before being destroyed by the intense heat and pressure.

Professor Fred Taylor of Oxford University, head of the British scientific team that has equipment on *Galileo*, said: "This is a very exciting time for us. I have been working on this project since 1976."

Professor Taylor, an atmospheric physicist, hopes the probe will disclose whether Jupiter's winds, known to reach more than 300mph, are matched by equally ferocious storms and lightning. He believes that details of the Jovian weather will improve our understanding of weather on Earth. "New knowledge always translates into practical applications," he said.

Galileo will orbit Jupiter for about two years, recording data. The Nasa project has been dogged by problems. Professor Taylor's experiments have been disrupted by the failure of *Galileo*'s main communications antenna failed to function, which has impaired the spacecraft's ability to transmit information to earth.

Siberian winds bring snow and big freeze

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BITTERLY cold weather front from Siberia will sweep across the country this week bringing sleet and snow, forecasters said yesterday. The Meteorological Office said the winds would bring a widespread hard frost and daytime temperatures unlikely to be above freezing.

Eastern and central parts will be most affected by the expected chill, which is likely to last all week. The London Weather Centre said the eastern half of the country should brace itself for snow showers by Wednesday.

"The wind is coming straight from Siberia and

although it will have warmed up, it will still be bitterly cold," a spokesman said.

Bookmakers have been quoting odds of 10-1 against snow falling in London on Christmas Day. Snow has fallen on December 25 in the capital eight times this century — the last time in 1970.

The AA advised drivers to pay extra attention to tyres and to check that routes were clear before setting off.

□ This autumn was the mildest this century and the fifth warmest since records began 300 years ago.

Forecast, page 22



THE EPIDLE PATH FROM WALMLEY TO LADYWOOD

MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THESE DAYS — BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON MARSTON'S PEDIGREE. THE GOLDEN FINE IT WAS IN GOOD OLD JOHN MARSTON'S PEDIGREE. IT'S ONLY BEEN STILL BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS. THANK HEAVEN SOME THINGS ARE WHAT THEY USED TO BE.



Family fears new hearing could backfire on disgraced Barings trader

Leeson's lawyers assess danger of sentence appeal

BY JOANNA BALE

LAWYERS representing Nick Leeson are debating whether to take the gamble of appealing against his 6½-year jail sentence.

They fear the disgraced Barings trader could face an increase in his sentence to eight years, the maximum allowed for the two charges he admitted, if the case is taken to the Singapore appeal court.

The lawyers have ten days in which to lodge an appeal, which would be likely to concentrate on the mitigating factors in the case, particularly Leeson's co-operation with the authorities after his return to Singapore. His relatives said yesterday that they had yet to be informed of a decision.

Alec Sims, Leeson's father-in-law, said: "We are very disappointed with the length of the sentence and we hope Nick's lawyers will be able to reduce it in some way. I am told an appeal could be risky and we are waiting to hear what they are advising him to do, but the last thing we want is for an even longer sentence."

Leeson's wife was staying with friends outside Britain yesterday and planning to return to Singapore later this

week where she hopes to visit her husband. Lisa Leeson, 26, has pledged to stand by him and to try to visit him once a month.

Mr Sims, of West Kingsdown, Kent, added: "Lisa is bearing up quite well under the circumstances. She plans to return to Singapore some time this week, then maybe come back to England."

Before going out to play a round of golf, he explained that the family was still coming to terms with the shock of the sentence, which was longer than had been predicted.

He said: "We are still trying to digest what has happened. The last couple of days have been very stressful. We don't really know much at all at the moment. We don't know what the visitation rights are likely to be or when they can start. We are in the dark, but whatever happens, we will support Lisa and Nick."

Leeson's sister Sarah said: "We are disappointed with the sentence and it would be even more devastating if it was increased on appeal."

Under his present sentence, Leeson will serve at least four years before he can expect parole. The Singapore court's

decision on Saturday came in the face of widespread speculation that the sentence was likely to be about two years, after reports of plea-bargaining by Leeson, who admitted two charges of financial misrepresentation.

He is understood to have agreed to give evidence against James Bax, his former managing director, should a case come to court. Investigators are also exploring the role of Simon Jones, another Barings boss named by Leeson's lawyers. Both men have surrendered their passports.

Leeson, 28, was blamed for piling up losses that broke Britain's oldest merchant bank, while managing its futures trading operations in Singapore.

Bondholders of Barings Bank want new civil actions over the case to help to recover their losses. Jonathan Stone, chairman of the Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, said the trial had dealt only with superficial details of Leeson's wrongdoing and had failed to get to the heart of the scandal in London. He added: "This trial is essentially a sideshow."



A typical cell in the once-notorious Changi prison, where Nick Leeson may serve some of his sentence

Jails promise tough but fair regime

NICK LEESON will experience "spartan but humane" conditions inside Singapore's jails, according to government officials. Inmates sleep on thin mats on the floor and there is no air-conditioning to offer relief from the stifling heat and humidity (Joanna Bale writes). There is, however, little of the physical brutality and sexual abuse seen in some Far Eastern prisons. Former inmates say warden are not harsh on those who follow the rules.

Leeson has been held at the maximum-security Tanah Merah jail, on the eastern side of Singapore island, since arriving from Germany on November 23. He has shared a cell with two others accused of

white-collar crimes. Part of his sentence is expected to be served at the once-notorious Changi jail, built on the site of the prisoner of war camp where thousands of British soldiers died during World War Two. It is now a modern, efficient operation, although the 1,700 prisoners have to endure constant noise from the international airport beside it.

The government spokesman said jail conditions contrasted with some Western countries, where inmates have many of the comforts of free citizens. "Singapore, as with most other Asian countries, does not adopt such practices."

A former convict in Singapore said: "The food is generally OK, and an Eng-

lishman can have Western food." The man, 31, served five terms in maximum and medium-security jails for forgery and burglary between 1980 and 1993.

He said conditions had improved over that period, with friendlier and more-educated guards and better work clothes. "Even the toilets have improved, and now have auto-flushing." Inmates can exercise and watch television, and all except drug addicts can smoke.

Physical or sexual abuse of prisoners is rare, he added. "They have very tight controls, and if you complain to the authorities they make sure it doesn't happen again. If you behave well, it's not a harsh life," he said.

Dorrell tries to allay BSE beef fears

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

THE Government insisted yesterday there was "no conceivable risk" of anyone eating beef infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or "mad cow" disease.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, issued the assurance in the face of growing doubts by eminent scientists about the safety of beef. Interviewed by Jonathan Dimbleby on London Weekend Television, Mr Dorrell said he would let his children eat hamburgers and made the same pledge on behalf of Dr Calman.

Mr Dorrell was asked whether he would "do a John Gummer" — a reference to the attempt by the then Agriculture Minister five years ago to reassure the public by feeding his four-year-old daughter Cordelia with a hamburger in front of television cameras. Mr Dorrell replied: "Yes, I would and what is more — which will perhaps give people more assurance — is that the Government's Chief Medical Officer will do that and he is a man of scientific eminence, which I am not."

Seven out of 16 scientists surveyed by *The Sunday Times* said they believed "on balance" that some people would develop Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD), the human counterpart to BSE, from eating beef products.

Boy, 13, kept mum over £500 treat

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SCHOOLBOY saved in secret for a year to give his mother the present of a lifetime for his own birthday.

Michael Cheshire, who is 13 today, spent £500 taking Shellagh Cheshire to the theatre to see *Cats* in a chauffeur-driven limousine brimming with flowers and chocolates. The following day Michael, from Grasscroft, Greater Manchester, whisked his 50-year-old mother away on a mini-cruise to Amsterdam.

He said: "I wanted to give her something just for being my mum. She's the best." He started saving when his grandmother died and left him £200. "I saved all my pocket money and the rest was from my paper round."

Mrs Cheshire said: "All the time and effort he's put in to planning everything is amazing. It's very kind of him and a very special gesture."

Hard labour urged for absent fathers

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FATHERS unwilling to support their illegitimate children should be made to perform hard labour for up to ten hours a day, a right-wing think-tank says today. Penal measures against irresponsible fathers are necessary to curb the spiralling rate of family breakdown, the report by the Institute of Economic Affairs says.

The recent focus on lone mothers, for whom benefits were frozen in the Budget, is misplaced and the severest measures should be taken against fathers. "To father a child and refuse to take responsibility should be clearly marked out as one of the lowest things a man can do," says the report by Dr David Green, director of the institute's health and welfare unit.

Dr Green says that where a father is not willing to marry the mother, or the mother will not marry the father, the father must pay the full cost of

maintenance. Poorly paid fathers should be legally required to hand over all their earnings above the income support level and have all their savings and "non-essential" possessions confiscated up to the amount required.

"If they give up work they should be compelled to work at special centres as a condition of receiving benefit. It may be necessary to make this work especially burdensome, by performance of hard labour for up to ten hours a day. If necessary, we should not shrink from such measures," Dr Green says.

Failure by a father to register a birth, threatening a mother with violence to conceal the father's identity and failing to pay maintenance should become criminal offences. "These measures will strike many as severe and that is the intention. They are likely to bring about a substantial behavioural change by men."

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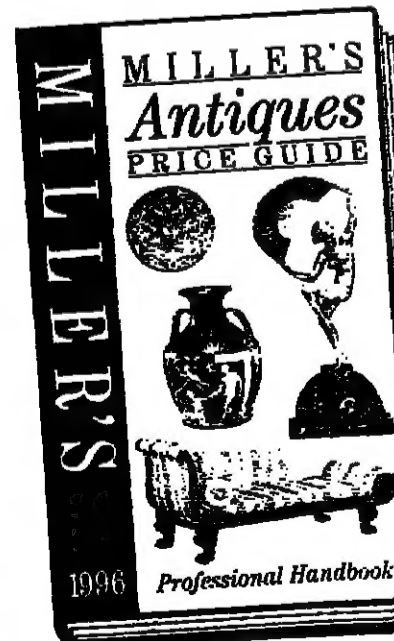


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هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Another world's fastest chip

H-P claims its PA-8000 will outperform others

It's a title that seems to shift on a monthly basis, but Hewlett-Packard Co. announced a chip design Monday that it says deserves the title of the world's fastest microprocessor.

Shortages hit 486 suppliers

A worldwide shortage of 486 chips is starting to make life difficult for system vendors as Intel shifts semiconductor production in favor of Pentium chips.

H-P lifts curtain on 64-bit chip, keeps mum on Intel project

Determined not to lose mind share in the processor game, Hewlett-Packard Co. last week provided a glimpse of its 64-bit PA-RISC 8000 architecture, which is still a year from delivery.

At the same time, officials at HP and Intel Corp. all but denied a wire service report that said the results of the two companies' collaborative microprocessor development would be announced in 1997.

That report was based on a

Barrett, who

IN TIME WILL

In showing

that the 64-bit

UltraSPARC is

betting that 64-

By the end

Larry Inman, HP

don't see the value

IBM, Motorola show off PowerPC 620 prototype; volume shipment expected in '95

IBM and Motorola are announcing the PowerPC 620 this week, the most advanced implementation of the PowerPC architecture to date.

As part of the announcement, the two companies introduced the first 620 prototype, with sample shipments to follow in the second quarter of 1995.

Volume production

second half

64-bit PowerPC, which IBM and Motorola will announce together, promises dramatic improvements in multiprocessing over the 601, chips, sources

to come twice 604's cost. The other apart

IBM, Motorola To Announce 64-bit PowerPC

Sun announces untested 64-bit chip

Sun Microsystems Inc. announced its new Sparc64 microprocessor on March 6, expected to achieve a rating of 300 and greater than 550 performance numbers. The processor is expected to be produced with the product said, which is greater than 200.

Sun Microsystems Inc. Sparc Technology Business and MIPS Technology Inc. have both announced the architecture of their next generation processors a year before they will appear in any products.

"It's sort of a bird's nest," said Andrew Aiken, editor of Inside the New Computer Industry.

"The chips keep going up," Aiken said. "The RISC chip makers are trying to prove that their processors are advanced enough to not only compete with each other but to also compete with the gap in design between the 386 and the 486."

The gap in design between the 386 and the 486 is a major factor in the design of the 64-bit chip.

The 64-bit chip is expected to be produced with the product said, which is greater than 200.

compared to Digital's Alpha AXP 21164, which has a SPECint92 rating of 330.

HP's Sun's biggest rival, is shipping a PA-7150 processor that has a SPECint92 rating of 135 and next month will introduce the PA-7200, which is expected to have a SPECint92 rating of about 150.

HP's Sun's biggest rival, is shipping a PA-7150 processor that has a SPECint92 rating of 135 and next month will introduce the PA-7200, which is expected to have a SPECint92 rating of about 150.

PowerPC Much hype, little demand

PC Week Via First: Hannover, Germany. IBM, Apple Computer and Motorola Inc. showed little restraint in hyping the PowerPC architecture last week, but in private, officials from the troika

are standard isn't ready for prime time. A range of PowerPC processors in the pipe that beat Intel's price/performance, logging system and software

continues to keep the PowerPC from breaking out of the niche and winning converts in the PC mainstream.

ing to take two to three years for us to really challenge Intel," said Hester, general manager of IBM's Systems and Technology Division, in Austin, Texas. "I don't have illusions that this is an overnight deal."

INTEL-HEWLETT-PACKARD ALLIANCE SEEN RALLYING A 64-BIT MICROPROCESSOR STANDARDS EFFORT

There are scant details of how Hewlett-Packard Co. plans to introduce technology developed under its alliance with Intel Corp. last week that the P7 will be the first chip to come out of the alliance. Analysts with

IT'S NICE TO SEE IBM AND HP FIGHTING OVER WHO WILL BE NUMBER 2.

In fact, it's downright heartwarming. Digital, of course, beat both of them to 64-bit computing long ago. And while neither one has a 64-bit machine to sell you,

we're now on our second generation of

64-bit Alpha-based workstations and

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every level. For example, our new AlphaStation™ 250

system is half the price of the comparably performing HP workstation.

While our new AlphaServer™ 8200 and 8400 systems are the first

and only servers capable of running the newest 64-bit database products — letting your

application directly address up to 14GB of data in main memory, and giving you

performance gains of up to one hundred times over 32-bit enterprise

systems. Alpha-based systems run thousands of applications — including

the ones you need most. And, thanks to the enormous capacity and scalability of 64-bit architecture, they'll

work with your present equipment, and grow almost limitlessly as your

business grows. Sure, it's possible that HP or IBM really will have 64-bit

machines, eventually. But even when they start offering real-world 64-bit

products, it'll still be years before they'll have been as thoroughly tested and

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evolved as ours are right now. So why wait? Whatever your business, whatever your budget, you can

do what thousands of companies all over the world have done — and what IBM and HP have

been unable to do — have a 64-bit computer you can call your own. For more information, contact your Digital

business associate. Or call us on 0800 320 300. Or reach us via our Internet address: moreinfo@digital.com.

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Digital Ships Its 100,000th Alpha System

Digital Equipment Corp. announced it shipped its 100,000th Alpha system. The milestone is significant for the company, as it demonstrates the success of its Alpha-based systems. The company has a long history of producing high-performance computing systems, and this milestone marks a significant achievement in its 64-bit Alpha-based systems.

Restaurateurs struggle to defend extras that make bills less palatable

Diners back peer's campaign to end service charges

By Alice Thomson
and Robin Young

A CAMPAIGN against service charges and hidden extras on restaurant bills will be boosted this week by a survey showing that a substantial majority of customers want them ended.

The survey of 1,200 people who use restaurants regularly was carried out by the Consumers' Association. The Earl of Bradford, whose Private Member's Bill seeking to make restaurant menu prices all-inclusive has its second reading in the House of Lords next month, said: "This should help the Government see the necessity for legislation. We have seen that self-regulation simply will not work."

He is to discuss the Bill with officials at the Trade Department tomorrow. "I will know more about the Bill's prospect after that, but even if the Government do not support the case for regulation there is such a lot of individual support among members that I believe the Bill would still have a chance."

Lord Bradford, who owns a restaurant in Covent Garden, has fought for 15 years for a code of practice. His restaurant, Porter's, adds a discretionary service charge only for parties of more than four and there is no cover charge.

The Bill has the support of the British Tourist Board, food critics and the Consumers' Association. Restaurant owners are divided on the issue.

The Restaurateurs' Association of Great Britain, of which Lord Bradford is a leading member, failed to agree on support for the Bill last week. The association, which has 1,000 members, supported the idea of legislation to set a uniform system but could not agree what system to adopt. Some restaurateurs



Bradford: no cover charge in his restaurant

argue that abolition of service charges would increase menu prices unacceptably and could force some restaurants out of business.

The Bill would require restaurants to print in a prominent place on the menu: "Our prices are fully inclusive and our staff do not expect a tip or gratuity." It would also outlaw cover charges and make restaurants complete credit card slips in full, so diners are not misled into paying for service twice. Later Lord Bradford would like set tourist menus to be made obligatory in restaurants.

Helen Parker, Editor of *Which?*, which will publish the survey of customers on Thursday, said: "Lord Bradford's Bill will bring Britain into line with every European country except Greece. Restaurant charges are an unjustified anomaly. Buy something in a shop and a shop assistant wouldn't accept a tip."

Sue Garland, the British Tourist Authority's head of policy, said: "Our overseas visitors spent £2.2 billion eating out last year, 22 per cent of the total. We don't want cus-

tomers to be presented with extra hidden costs or bills they don't understand. Despite the restaurateurs' doubts, we will fight this issue to the end."

The restaurant critic Fay Maschler conceded that some restaurants might close but pointed out that only 40 per cent of restaurants survived their first year. "I would like to see waiting taken as a serious profession, as in France, something people would aspire to and enjoy and it is not easy if they are continually having to tout for tips," she said.

The Bill is to have its second reading on January 10. A record number of families will be eating out for Christmas lunch this year. Pubs, restaurants and hotels have reported earlier and greater bookings for Christmas Day, and thousands are already full.

At the Cliveden Hotel in Buckinghamshire, Christmas packages priced from £1,200 to £2,330 per person have been sold out for more than a month. In London, the Savoy's River Restaurant and Grill are full for Christmas lunches and dinners from £100 to £130 a head, as is Claridge's at £110 for lunch and £85 for candlelit dinner.

Jerry Watson of Bass Taverns said: "We have been promoting our Christmas offers since August, and almost all our 130 Toby Restaurants are fully booked for our £34.95 four-course Christmas lunch." Jackie Kernaghan, sales director for Forté, said: "We have definitely seen an increase in people eating out at Christmas. More people are staying in hotels, and working women are keen to relax with their families rather than doing all the hard work at home."

Leading article, page 19



Jean-Pierre Chatelain, head waiter in a London restaurant that levies a 12½ per cent service charge on customers

When discretion proves the greater part of value

THE LEGAL POSITION

Restaurants are obliged by law to display outside or immediately inside the door any service charge that is to be automatically included in the bill. If it is displayed, the customer should pay unless there is something wrong with the service. If service charges are not indicated the customer does not have to pay, but can decide whether to tip and how much.

The 1989 Consumer Protection Act said restaurants should include any compulsory service charge within the price of each item, rather than adding a percentage charge to the bill.

Since establishments that followed the code had to show menu prices higher than those which hid additional charges in the small print, the code was so widely ignored that most restaurateurs agree it made no difference.

Ashley Holmes, head of legal affairs at the Consumers' Association, said: "We need more clarity. Even I find it confusing knowing whether service has been added."

MICHAEL GOTTLIEB, proprietor of Smolensky's Balloon and chairman of the Restaurateurs' Association of Great Britain, was an outspoken opponent of service charges long before he abolished them in April last year.

He said yesterday: "We had service charges at 12½ per cent, then 6 per cent, and then when the recession came and I needed to make a crafty extra 2 per cent without my customers noticing, I put them up to 8 per cent. They didn't notice either, but early last year I abolished the charges."

Neville Abraham, vice-chairman of the association and chairman of Groupe Chez Gerard, said: "If we did not have a discretionary service charge of 12½ per cent, which virtually all customers pay, we would have to put our prices up by more than that amount. The service charge does go 100 per cent to our staff in their pay packet."

Natasha Ledenis at Chez Nico in Park Lane, London, said: "Our restaurant is always thought expensive because its prices are already



Gottlieb: abolished service charges

fully inclusive. There are absolutely no hidden extras. We do not get any credit for our honesty. Any extra tips go to the waiters who share it among themselves."

Annie Schwab of Winterringham Fields, Winterringham, Humberside, said: "Our staff run a dining club with part of their tips, which are divided equally between the kitchen and dining room staff at the end of each shift."

Paul Heathcote of Paul Heathcote's, Longridge, Lan-

cashire, applies a 10 per cent optional service charge but only to a maximum of £15: "I do believe service charges are useful if they are used properly on wages. All our staff, including kitchen porters and washers, get shares unless they are on holiday."

Jean-Pierre Chatelain, head waiter at Café Fish in Panton Street, in the West End of London, gave the view from the shop floor: "Our 12½ per cent service charge is divided by a points system. The average waiter gets a basic wage of £76 a week gross, and the service charge makes that up to £150 or £160 clear, perhaps £170 in a good week. Tips belong to waiters and in an average week may add another £50."

Lisa, a waitress in a central London restaurant catering mainly for tourists, said: "I am paid £2.85 an hour and am expected to make what I can from tips. Credit cards slips are left open, but the managers take tips paid by credit card. The girls only get cash collected from the tables, sometimes £3 or £4 in a shift."

Nickell murder: man is arrested

A 31-year-old man has been arrested and interviewed about the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common three years ago. John Gallagher, a former barman from south London, was interviewed earlier this year in New Zealand. He voluntarily went to a police station on November 22 and has been released on bail.

Spectator shot

A woman is seriously ill after being shot in the chest at a clay pigeon shooting match. Police say she was a spectator at the private meeting near Crediton, Devon. Shot organisers are expected to be questioned about safety.

Crash inquiry

The Police Complaints Authority is investigating the death of a woman pedestrian aged 75 who received fatal injuries in an accident involving a police van answering an emergency call on Saturday in Guildford, Surrey.

Rare birds stolen

A pair of £15,000 hyacinth macaws, part of an endangered species breeding programme, have been taken from a tropical bird garden near Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Police believe they were stolen in order for a collector.

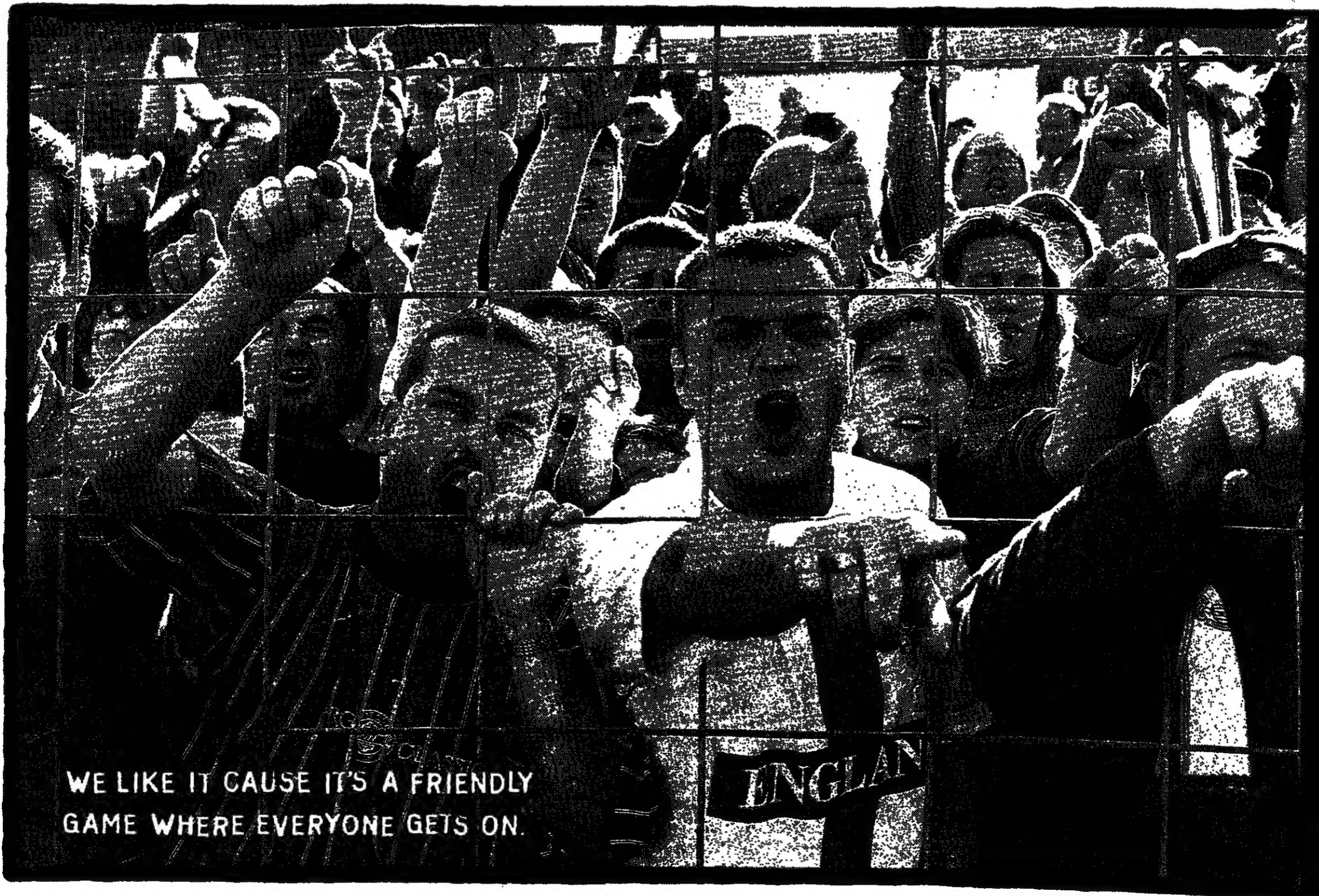
A quiet word

Bristol Central Library has set up special tables in "women-only" zones after complaints that the high shelves and quiet aisles provided the ideal setting for men to harass female readers.

Free weddings

A vicar is to waive the usual £200 marriage fee next year to persuade unwed couples in his parish to marry. The Rev Derek Sawyer, of St Aldate's, Gloucester, said the vergers and choir have also agreed to work without charge.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nickell murder: man is arrested

A 34-year-old man has been arrested and interviewed about the murder of Robert Nickell on Wimbledon Common three years ago. John Gallagher, a former barrister from south London, was interviewed earlier this year in New Zealand. He was released on November 22 and has been released on bail.

Spectator shot

A woman was seriously injured being shot in the chest at a day of shooting on the 10th day of the season. Police are investigating the shooting, which took place at the 10th day of the season. The woman was injured in the chest and is in a serious condition. The shooting took place at the 10th day of the season.

Crash inquiry

The Police are investigating a crash which took place on the 10th day of the season. The crash took place on the 10th day of the season. The Police are investigating the crash, which took place on the 10th day of the season.

Rare birds stoked

A pair of rare birds were stoked on the 10th day of the season. The birds were stoked on the 10th day of the season. The pair of rare birds were stoked on the 10th day of the season.

A quiet word

A quiet word was given on the 10th day of the season. The quiet word was given on the 10th day of the season. A quiet word was given on the 10th day of the season.

From wedding

From wedding on the 10th day of the season. The wedding took place on the 10th day of the season. From wedding on the 10th day of the season.

Peace document wins rhubarb award

Rivals in plain English wage war of blunt words

By Robin Young

A BOUT of plain speaking took place yesterday between rivals who hand out awards for clear language. The Plain Language Commission will announce its awards for 1995 today, much to the annoyance of the Plain English Campaign, an organisation with almost identical objectives.

This is the first year that the commission, a company whose director Martin Cuts used to work for the campaign, has given awards. The campaign, headed by Mr Cuts's former partner, Christie Maher, has been issuing honours since 1981.

The organisations are based within eight miles of each other near Stockport, Cheshire, and accept commissions from companies, local authorities and government departments to simplify official literature.

Mr Cuts worked with Mrs Maher at the campaign until 1988, when their relationship ended in acrimony. Mr Cuts established his commission the following year. The rivals now use very blunt language indeed about each other. Communications between them are simplified by no longer being on speaking terms.

Today's clash is exacerbated (plain language: made worse) by the fact that Mr Cuts has chosen to give one of his booby prizes to Mrs Maher's favourite award winner, NatWest Bank. Nominated by her as Crystal Clear Bank of Europe for the ease with which its

Working towards peace in Northern Ireland seems to be easier for John Major than explaining the process, the Plain Language Commission says. It has awarded him its Golden Rhubarb trophy for the most baffling document of 1995. Ulster people who received copies of *Frameworks for the Future*, an 11,000-word booklet on the peace process, were irritated to find it full of terms such as unicameral, ultra vires, inter alia and adumbrated, Martin Cuts said.

He described the booklet as rambling, repetitive, jargon-filled and incomprehensible to its target audience. "It is difficult to find really bad government documents nowadays, but this one was quite dire. It is a feeble piece of writing," Mr Cuts said. One sentence in the booklet runs to 121 words, against the commission's recommendation of 15 to 20-word sentences for a complex subject.

literature could be understood, the bank receives from Mr Cuts a Silver Rhubarb award.

He says it is for the worst financial gobbledegook of the year, in a booklet about mortgage rates which was subtitled "a simple guide". Some of the advice on offer reads: "Depending upon the type of mortgage you have, repaying early can have certain financial consequences (sic). For instance, early repayment of a mortgage and surrender of an endowment policy, may leave you with a small surrendering sum, which may not reflect the actual monies invested. Alternatively, cancellation of a life policy without considering future needs may ultimately mean increased premiums for the same amount of life cover in the future."

Mr Cuts also criticises NatWest for new terms and conditions of business cards, which he says include an 81-word sentence and several

archaisms including heretofore, moneys and "shall be deemed". "One sentence is unfinished and would be meaningless in any court of law," Mr Cuts says.

Mrs Maher said yesterday: "He should be ashamed of himself. He is deliberately trying to undermine a grass-roots movement. He was a student from Liverpool University when I found him to help me."

Mr Cuts was unrepentant. "I did not know the campaign still issued awards," he said. "We are entitled to do it as well."

When we do commend any of our clients we will make it clear."

Mrs Maher replied: "NatWest Bank fully deserved their award. They have made real efforts, and deserve to be praised. It makes me sad to see all the good work we have done devalued in this way."

An Edinburgh law firm, Tods Murray, was chosen by the commission for its Bronze Rhubarb Award for a deed of transfer. One sentence struggles its way through 154 words with the help of two sets of brackets, two herebys, a there-of, a hereinafter and only one comma before ending with a semi-colon.

David Anderson of Tods Murray said that the document had been used in the same form for 20 years and had provoked no complaints. He said: "We agree wholeheartedly that all consumer contracts should be in plain, intelligible language. However, that does not mean that it is either necessary or desirable that they should be in colloquial language. In our view, the deed of transfer is perfectly clear."

THROUGH THESE GATES WALK THE FINEST PRISON STAFF IN EUROPE



Ted Butt, governor of Latchmere House, at the prison gate

Have a nice day, you're in a prison that cares

By Richard Ford and Ian Murray

TWO prisons are awarded Charter Mark today for high standards of service, but the conference centre at which John Major will present a total of 224 such awards has not had its Charter Mark renewed.

The Queen Elizabeth II centre in Westminster won a three-year charter mark in 1992, the year the scheme was launched, but failed to impress the judges this year. The Cabinet Office refused to give a reason.

Gill Price, the centre's commercial director, said: "Obviously the organisers of the charter mark event think we're the best or they wouldn't be here."

The awards ceremony will be attended by staff from Latchmere House jail in Richmond, southwest London, and Brinsford young offender institution, Wolverhampton. Latchmere House was honoured for its work in retraining inmates for civilian life and Brinsford for its healthcare. Richard Tilt, acting Director-General of the Prison Service, said: "I look forward to more prisons reaching these high standards."

Any public service that controls its own budget can apply for a Charter Mark, the scheme introduced by Mr Major. It must reach a number of quality thresholds on its standard of service to the public. This year's recipients include the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, the Royal Ulster Constabulary's child abuse and rape inquiry unit and a dog warden service in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Pensioners dig in for new fight over hedge

By Kathryn Knight

TWO pensioners in dispute over a cypress hedge threatened further legal action against each other yesterday despite a ruling last week apparently ending their five-year battle.

Michael Jones, 67, was told at Birmingham County Court on Thursday that he had been within his rights in 1990 to prune what was a 25ft hedge dividing his property from that of Bernard Stanton, 87, in Selly Oak.

Hopes of peace were thwarted yesterday after Mr Jones issued an ultimatum, telling Mr Stanton to prune back the hedge to 10ft by Christmas. Mr Stanton says he has no intention of cutting the hedge, which has grown back to within 3ft of its 1990 height.

Mr Stanton is considering an appeal against Thursday's ruling. He had sued Mr Jones for £30,000 damages to replace the row of ten trees but was told by Mr Recorder Wolton, QC, that he had not acted reasonably. He faces a £70,000 bill for costs.

Speaking at his detached home yesterday, Mr Jones said: "I don't want to spend another winter in the dark. I shall be contacting Mr Stanton through solicitors and hope that he will cut the hedge and pay the costs for doing so." However, Mr Stanton's son Terry, 55, said: "We have not decided whether to appeal yet. Mr Jones would be unwise to go near the hedge until we have done so."

Woman is sliced up to appear on Internet

By Nigel Hawkes Science Editor

BROWSERS on the Internet can now study images of a 59-year-old woman, frozen and sliced into 5,200 ultra-thin wafers. "Visible Woman" — an anonymous woman from Maryland who died of a heart attack in 1993 and donated her body to science — joins Visible Man, who has been available on the Internet for the past year.

The cross-sectional images are intended for doctors, surgeons and medical students, and can be rotated and viewed through innumerable angles. Victor Spitzer, a biologist at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Centre where the bodies were sliced, said: "You study an orange by cutting it in half so it made sense with a human being."

The woman's body was embedded in gelatin, frozen and cut into slices one third of a millimetre thick, using an instrument called a cryomicrotome, a mechanical planing device. It took a year to complete the process.

As each slice was removed, photographs of the top of the remaining section were taken and fed into a computer with X-ray and magnetic resonance images. The process enabled users to build up experience of imaging techniques by comparing their results with actual body cross-sections, Dr Spitzer said.

Human Project is available on the National Library of Medicine home page through <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Doctors call for tougher alcohol limit on drivers

BY RICHARD FORD
AND JEREMY LAURANCE

DOCTORS want permitted alcohol levels for drivers almost halved to reduce the number of road deaths and accidents linked to drink.

The British Medical Association's call today for the maximum alcohol/blood ratio to be cut from 80 milligrams per 100 millilitres to 50 milligrams comes on the eve of the Government's annual Christmas drink-drive campaign.

The reduction would bring Britain into line with France, Portugal, Norway and The Netherlands.

The BMA's intervention will increase the pressure on the Department of Transport to consider cutting the limit for the first time since it was introduced almost 30 years ago.

An alcohol/blood level of 80 milligrams is roughly equivalent to two pints of ordinary bitter or four glasses of wine for a man, half as much for a woman.

Last week, police chiefs in Scotland called for a similar reduction, arguing that it would have prevented 213 serious accidents and saved

Fifty-seven per cent of drivers did not know the legal drink-drive limit in a survey conducted by the insurers Eagle Star. Of those who claimed they did know, 36 per cent believed wrongly — that a man would still be under the limit after two pints of lager. Over 60 per cent believed that a pint of lager and a single brandy contained the same amount of alcohol — the woman could drink three glasses of wine and stay under the limit — it is likely to push her over. The legal drink-drive limits are 35 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath; 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood; or 107 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of urine.

£183 million in Scotland between 1988 and 1993.

In a letter to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, the BMA says that although national initiatives play a part in reducing road accidents related to alcohol, additional measures are needed.

"Despite advice from the Government and safety organisations that the safest option is not to drink and drive, many drivers still look to the legal limit for guidance about safe drinking and driving levels," the letter says.

"Research has shown that the relative risk of driver involvement in road traffic accidents greatly increases at

blood alcohol levels over 50 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood."

The letter adds that as France has recently imposed a 50mg/100ml limit, it is time for the Government to consider a similar move here. It also backs demands by chief police officers in England and Wales for the introduction of random breath testing. "The possibility of being tested randomly is considered more likely to act as a deterrent when drivers have a higher chance of being caught," the BMA says.

Research carried out at Glasgow University has shown that reaction times of motorists who have been drinking but are within the

legal limit can be 20 per cent lower than usual.

The Government's £1 million Christmas campaign, to be launched tomorrow, will target motorists who ignore the risk and dangers of driving after drinking. It will include advertisements on television and hoardings and in newspapers and magazines.

The television commercial will show that although a young drink-driver may not be too concerned what happens to him, he does become upset about the effects on his friends.

This year the Association of Chief Police Officers is dropping its usual practice of publishing a breakdown of the total number of breath tests carried out and the number that proved positive in the 43 forces in England and Wales. Instead of drink-drive figures being produced on December 23 and January 2, there will be one set produced in the New Year. Police sources said last night that the decision to cut back on the information was because of the enormous manpower involved in producing the figures.



Yve Newbold: urged women workers to fight harder

Women accuse firms of bias on company cars

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FEMALE executives who claw their way up the corporate ladder feel they are being fobbed off with less prestigious company cars than their male colleagues.

Three out of four believe that men are given more powerful or prestigious cars than women in equivalent jobs, according to a survey of 167 women executives by the Henley Management School. The survey follows an industrial tribunal in March in which a woman manager was awarded £750 after her employer gave her a Y-registration pool car while a male colleague on a lower salary was given a new car.

Although some companies allocate a make of car to a particular grade of job, many still leave the choice to the discretion of senior managers, who are predominantly men.

Recent research showed that 60 per cent of company cars worth less than £12,000 were driven by women, even though women make up only 17 per cent of company car drivers. Luxury models worth over £30,000 are almost exclusively the preserve of men.

Yve Newbold, former company secretary of the Hanson industrial conglomerate and chief executive of Pro-Ned, which represents non-executive directors, said women were not fighting hard enough for the high-status company cars that their jobs commanded. "I had to fight very hard at Hanson to get a Jaguar XJ6 and I was one of the first people in the company to have one. Car appeal

has a range of subtle, symbolic reasons for men that do not apply to women," she said. "They are bound up with power, thrust, virility and speed, whereas women are more concerned with whether the car is polluting the kerbside where there are mothers with babies."

More than 60 per cent of female executives believed that their male colleagues resented women driving luxury company cars, according to the survey, a statement with which 46 per cent of men agreed.

About half the women surveyed also complained about sexism on the roads among male drivers and said they were frequently subjected to offensive gestures and language and "unnecessary overtaking and cutting up".

However, the research found that only 27 per cent of women company car drivers drove more than 18,000 miles a year compared with 60 per cent of men.

Some management experts said that women opted for smaller vehicles because they were less concerned than men with the status value of company cars. "Women would often prefer to trade in a large car or a prestigious car for some other benefit such as childcare," said Valerie Hammond of the Roffey Park Management Institute.

RAC research shows that the most popular choice of car among women was the Ford Fiesta, while men preferred the more powerful Ford Sierra.

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Eat, drink and be merry with a touch of Greek



MEDICAL BRIEFING

TRADITIONAL British winter fare, culminating in a Christmas dinner of roast beef, game, turkey, plum pudding, brandy butter and mince pies, displays our national cooking at its best.

But does the diet that fills the tables of such conventional restaurants as Simpson's and Rules also play a part in filling the beds at the National Heart Hospital? Would we be healthier, if not happier, and live longer if, like the Portuguese, we were prepared to accept dried and salted cod for Christmas lunch?

The British diet, which has produced chefs who understand roasting better than anyone else in the world, may have also provided enough cases to make our cardiologists equally eminent. In the same week as the Greek Prime Minister's family sent for a British cardiologist who gained his experience working on Londoners' coronaries, the *British Medical Journal* published an analysis on the effect of the Greek version of the Mediterranean diet on longevity. The research workers, doctors from the departments of public health and epidemiology of the universities of Athens, Melbourne and Harvard, were not only concerned about death from cardiovascular disease — earlier surveys have explored the effect of the Mediterranean diet on these — but the overall mortality from all causes.

The international team of doctors descended on three villages in Greece between October 1988 and June 1990. While there they carefully recorded the eating, drinking and smoking habits of the older village residents. Between April 1993 and January 1994 the doctors returned to see how many of the older people they had interviewed had died and related the composition of their diet to their age at death.

It seems that the traditional Greek villager is not adventurous

ous in the choice of food and still largely follows the historic folk diet. This diet, in which the protein is more likely to be fish than meat, also includes up to seven glasses of wine a day for the men and two glasses for the women; the wine is usually drunk with meals. The doctors concluded: "No subject could be considered a heavy drinker."

The characteristics of a normal Greek villager's diet were assumed to be a high proportion of unsaturated fat (mainly olive oil) to saturated fat, a moderate alcohol intake, a high consumption of peas, beans, bread, potatoes and vegetables; and a low consumption of meat and milk, although cheese and yoghurt are eaten regularly. The high consumption of vegetables, fresh fruits and bread ensured a liberal intake of betacarotene, vitamin C and vitamin E, with those minerals that are accepted as being an important part of a wholesome diet.

The survey showed that the overall mortality, as well as that from cardiac disease, of the elderly Greek villager was reduced by following the Mediterranean diet. The closer the nutritional intake of any individual to that of the traditional diet, the longer he or she was likely to survive. No particular component of the diet seemed to be a crucial factor in achieving longevity but each of the nutritionally important ingredients seemed to form part of a combined effect.

Everybody should enjoy their turkey this Christmas, and even their beef provided that it is offal-free, but they should also take plenty of bread, green vegetables, tomatoes and onions, salads soaked in olive oil, several glasses of wine, additional vitamin C, E, betacarotene and, perhaps, a little garlic.

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South Korea holds former President over 1979 coup

By PEREGRINE HODSON

CHUN DOO HWAN, the former South Korean President, was arrested yesterday for his role in a 1979 coup that was followed by the most violent crackdown in the country's history.

Mr Chun, 64, became the second former President to be detained for alleged misconduct. His immediate successor, Roh Tae Woo, was arrested 19 days ago on corruption charges.

Supporters of Mr Chun scuffled with police after thousands of officers surrounded his home in Hapcheon, 200 miles south of Seoul, before he was taken to a prison outside

the capital where demonstrators gathered, some carrying placards that read "Execute the murderer".

Mr Chun has denied most of the charges against him. Under South Korean law, anyone who is found guilty of organising a military coup faces the death penalty. On Saturday he appeared on television and dismissed the mutiny and pro-democracy demonstrations that ensued as "all in the past".

He also said that Kim Young Sam, the current President, was bringing the case for his own political advantage. Mr Chun declared that he

would not co-operate with any investigation, since "the case has already been concluded by prosecutors", referring to an earlier investigation after which it was decided not to charge him or Mr Roh to "avoid national instability".

Prosecutors have apparently gained evidence of Mr Chun's participation in the coup from their interrogation of Mr Roh who appeared on television last month before his arrest and tearfully confessed to his part in a £193 million slush fund scandal. The two men led a coup in December 1979, six weeks after the assassination of the President, Park Chun Hee.

In an attempt to distance himself from previous tarnished administrations, Mr Kim has enacted a law to investigate the 1979 mutiny and the crushing of a pro-democracy uprising in May 1980 in Kwangju where, according to government figures, 200 people were killed in riots, although unofficial sources put the death toll at 2,000.

Mr Chun, a retired general, will be interrogated about his role in the Kwangju massacre. His arrest is the latest move in a power struggle which has been described as a "political civil war".



Chun Doo Hwan after his arrest by South Korean officials in Hapcheon yesterday over the 1979 coup

Tour of China gives Castro a lesson in market reforms

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

PRESIDENT CASTRO of Cuba visited Mao Tse-tung's mausoleum in Tiananmen Square at the weekend. He saluted a white marble statue of the Great Helmsman who once called American imperialism a "paper tiger".

While Señor Castro has been remembering history this week, the Chinese have been forgetting it — failing to recall the 30 years when Havana stood with Moscow against Peking. The Cuban

leader's current trip would "further promote bilateral friendly co-operation, which has existed between the two nations since diplomatic links were made in 1960", *China Daily* reported, with a certain amnesia about an intervening three decades of virtual non-contact. It is, after all, the Cuban dictator's first visit to the Middle Kingdom.

While here, besides seeing the Forbidden City and Great Wall, aspects of China's imperial and self-enclosed past, he

will view showcases of Peking's new opening: the trumpeted "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

This week, the ageing Cuban leader is touring China to witness the market reforms brought in by Mao's successor, the now ailing Deng Xiaoping. The reforms will hurt Cuba too: three agreements which Señor Castro signed stipulated that, instead of barter trade, the two countries will now deal in cold cash, sources say.

Assassin of Rabin implicates a guard

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

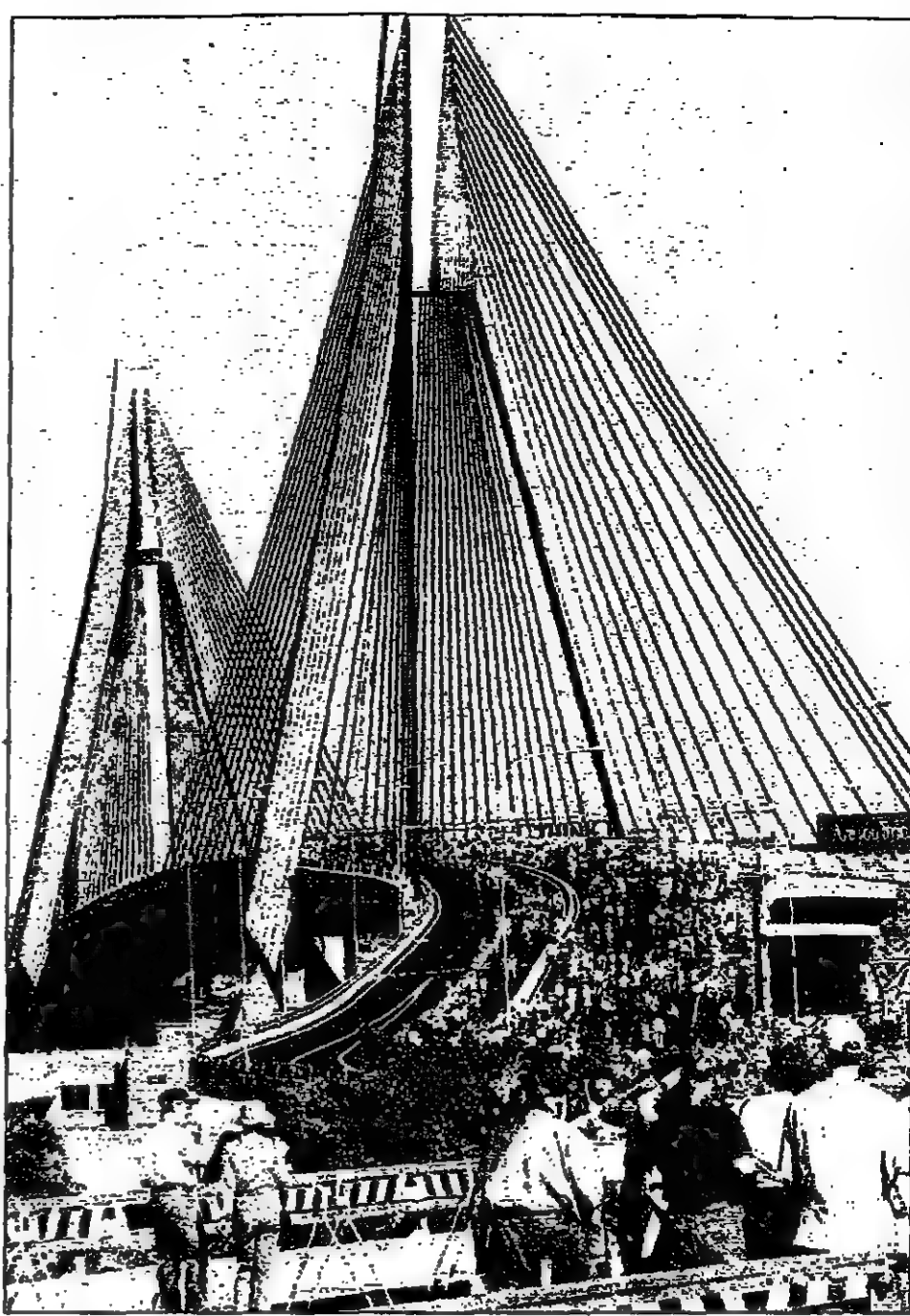
THE mystery surrounding the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin deepened yesterday when his self-confessed killer told a judge he had information "that would turn the country upside down" and suggested that one of the Prime Minister's bodyguards might have been part of the plot.

The intervention by Yigal Amir, 25, a Jewish right-wing militant, came as the inquiry commission into the killing on November 4, whose mainly secret proceedings have spawned a mass of conspiracy theories, was starting its third week of hearings.

Public doubt about the picture of the murder that has emerged centres round either a belief that the Shin Bet internal security service had a hand, or if not, disbelief that such a hallowed institution could have been so incompetent as to allow Rabin to be shot at point-blank range.

Yesterday's bizarre revelations emerged when Mr Amir appeared in court to hear police demand that his detention without charge be extended beyond the 30-day maximum. A police official added to the national speculation when he told Judge Dan Arbel that the investigation had now taken a "new direction" based on secret information that could not be disclosed.

Last night three Jewish extremists were charged with sedition after allegedly calling for the overthrow of the Rabin Government. It was the first time that this section of the Israeli criminal code has been used against a Jew since the country was founded in 1948.



More than 65,000 people walk across the Glenc Island Bridge which was opened in Sydney yesterday. The 2,650ft-long structure over the harbour is the longest cable-stayed bridge in Australia, and will be on the route of the marathons

Sydney 'bra' bridge opens

In the 2000 Olympic games. The bridge has been nicknamed "Madonna's bra" after the pop singer's conical

stage garments. The roads authority said that the bridge, which links the city and the heavily populated western suburbs, would carry 100,000 vehicles a day, bypassing a narrow structure that causes enormous traffic jams. (AFP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mandela 'to dismiss wife's ally'

Johannesburg: President Mandela will this week recommend the dismissal of Major-General Bantu Holomisa, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and ally of his estranged wife, on disciplinary charges, newspapers reported (Inigo Gilmore writes).

Mr Mandela is said to be furious about statements made by the ex-homeland ruler which claimed intelligence services and the African National Congress were colluding to oust him.

Still in power

Taipei: Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party clung to a thin parliamentary majority, winning 85 seats in the 164-seat Legislative Yuan, down from the 92 it held, final results showed. (Reuters)

Press victim

Algiers: The bodies of Hamid Mahiout, 45, a journalist on the independent *Liberte* daily, and his driver were found in a suburb, the Algerian Government said. They were stabbed to death. (Reuters)

Girl's ordeal

Sydney: A girl, 11, who survived a murder rampage in the Australian city of Brisbane, was in critical condition after lying injured among the decomposing bodies of her family for five days. (AFP)

Anglers lost

Moscow: Helicopters and ice-breakers were searching for six Russian anglers who have been adrift on an iceflo 500 miles north of the capital for four days, the Emergency Ministry said. (Reuters)

Trapped Tigers make last stand in Jaffna

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Tamil Tigers were making their last stand last night in Jaffna city, their collapsing capital in northern Sri Lanka, in a suicidal battle against troops with tanks and mortars.

The rebels, driven from the old Dutch fort, are trapped in a warren of streets and abandoned houses in the town centre. The guerrillas have held

off the armed forces for two weeks with landmines and booby-traps. They fought from concrete bunkers, canals and drains, and laid traps in almost every house.

"Terrorists within the city centre will have to surrender or commit suicide," the Defence Ministry said. It admitted that the advance was slow and difficult. It spoke of Tigers' bodies lying everywhere, untouched in case they were booby-trapped. About 400

civilians had been found in St Mary's Church and the seminary.

At least 250,000 Jaffna Tamils, and perhaps as many as 400,000, have been displaced by fighting. The Government appears to have done a commendable job feeding and sheltering them, avoiding what could have become a humanitarian catastrophe. Civilian casualties are few.

The Tigers' support comes from the landless and dispossessed and shows

no sign of waning. "Because of this battle the people are with the Tigers," Father Joseph Mary, a Jesuit in the eastern city of Batticaloa, said. "Support for the Tigers has increased."

The Tigers' biggest need is for recruits. Tamil boys of 14 and above are being put into uniform, and issued with a rifle and two phials of cyanide. "One day they are in school, the next they are missing," Father Joseph said. "They have run away to war."

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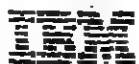
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France's strikers have fragile economy reeling

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE strikers who are bringing France to its knees have many and varied grievances, but the fear they have in common is that irreparable damage is being done by the Government of Alain Juppé to France's cherished welfare benefits.

The rail workers are bitterly opposed to a plan to overhaul the state-owned railway company, postal employees are defending their pension plans, utility workers fear deregulation and job losses; students want more money for teachers and classrooms; and telecommunications employees are outraged at the prospect of partial privatisation.

However, the different resentments have crystallised around plans to overhaul the welfare system, which unions believe will reduce coveted social security benefits and lead to job losses.

With the protests starting to merge into one, observers say the chaos is fast approaching the situation in May 1968, when students and workers brought much of France to a shuddering stop. "Discontent will only get worse. In Paris

more than half of all employees have stopped work," said Marc Blondel, head of the powerful Force Ouvrière union.

The already fragile French economy has been further weakened by the strikes. After more than a week spent struggling to get to and from work, Parisians stayed away from shops in droves last weekend, badly denting pre-Christmas sales. Large shops in the capital reported half the normal receipts for this time of year. They will be allowed to open on Sundays for the rest of the month in an attempt to recoup losses.

Industries, deprived of workers and raw materials by the transport strike, have begun sending employees home, while restaurants and cafés reported a fraction of the usual weekend turnover. Half the small and medium-sized businesses in Paris have been "economically blocked", according to the Government, which has said that many jobs may be lost due to the strike.

The consequences for weakened businesses could be catastrophic," said Franck

Borotra, the Industry Minister. The consequences may be equally dire for the Government, which has promised to reduce France's vast deficit in order to meet the criteria for European monetary union. The strikes are certain to affect economic growth in France, which may in turn necessitate more radical austerity measures by the Government, and thus prompt further strikes.

M Juppé has gambled that public sentiment will turn against the strikers in the run-up to Christmas, but it is a measure of the Government's profound unpopularity that support for the strike remains high despite the widespread disruption.

A poll published over the weekend showed 62 per cent of respondents in favour of the strikes, while only 30 per cent oppose them. President Chirac has said nothing in public about the dispute and last Friday left the country for a weekend summit with the leaders of other French-speaking nations in Benin.

The ruling coalition has called for counter-demonstrations against the strikers, prompting accusations that the Government is seeking to "politicise" an inflamed situation.

A group of 3,000 angry commuters staged a demonstration in Paris on Saturday to demand that the public sector strikers go back to work. Organisers said the protest was sparsely attended for one reason: demonstrators could not get into the city because of the transport strike. **Rome:** Italian transport workers are to go on strike next week, trade union sources said yesterday.

Separate stoppages are to be held by rail workers over a regionalisation plan due to come into effect on January 1, and by air traffic controllers on domestic and international routes over staffing levels and a "delay" by the Government in implementing a deal on working conditions. (AFP)

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, in Paris yesterday at the Matignon, his official residence, after calling a Cabinet meeting over the wave of mass strikes

Free boat rides on Seine to beat rush-hour chaos

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A CONVOY of private buses and a flotilla of river boats will help Paris commuters face another week of strike chaos, the French Government announced yesterday. Bernard Pons, the Transport Minister, said the buses and boats were expected to carry about 100,000 rush-hour passengers between them at a cost of Fr3 million (£400,000) a day. The army is reported to

be standing by to provide trucks. M Pons admitted that the emergency measures were "modest compared to the scale of the problems".

With the rail strike now in its eleventh day and set to continue indefinitely, all provincial and suburban trains are standing idle and the Paris Metro is expected to remain closed. The situation will worsen tomorrow when

taxi drivers join a union protest in Paris. Air travel is expected to be hit this week by strikes by Air France and Air Inter.

Just 60 per cent of Eurostar trains were operating between London and Paris yesterday and a company spokesman said the service could shut if striking electricity workers disrupt rail signals.

Clinton bickers with EU over Bosnia aid bill

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN MADRID AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DIFFERENCES over how America and Europe should split the bill for reconstructing Bosnia-Herzegovina emerged yesterday when President Clinton met EU leaders to sign an agreement designed to strengthen transatlantic links on issues ranging from the Middle East to the Internet.

Before the Dayton agreement on Bosnia is even signed, governments on both sides of the Atlantic are wrangling over who picks up how much of the estimated \$6 billion (£3.9 billion) bill for rebuilding houses, roads and bridges wrecked by civil war.

European leaders suggested to the President that the cost be divided three ways: EU states and America would pay a third each and other countries, such as Japan and the richer Islamic states, would contribute another third.

President Clinton told the EU's representatives — Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, and Jacques Santer, the European Commission President — that he was spending a lot of "political capital" persuading Congress to approve the dispatch of 20,000 American troops. It would not agree to America meeting more than 20 per cent of reconstruction spending.

The debate over burden-sharing took place against an ominous background of threats to the Dayton accord. The French Government withdrew a complaint from General Jean-René Bachelier, the commander of the French troops in Sarajevo, that the agreement is unworkable.

Asked whether the Dayton agreement was in danger, President Clinton said: "No, I don't think that the treaty is in trouble and, no, I don't think it should be renegotiated." The President also gave an upbeat message when he flew to Bamberg, Germany, to meet American troops before they leave for Bosnia.

He told the soldiers that they would not be serving under the same handicaps as the lightly armed UN peacekeepers. "If you are threatened with attack, you may respond immediately and with decisive force," the President said. "Everyone should know that

when America comes to help make the peace, America will still look after its own."

However, the mood of the First Armoured Division, known as the Old Ironsides, has been, and remains, sour. A banner held up on the fringes of the uniformed crowd announced: "President Clinton, you have stolen our Christmas!"

The American troops — who, like the first British soldiers, will begin to move this week — have yet to be convinced. They have heard for three years grim predictions about the Balkan quagmire and the determination of the White House that not a single American soldier will

Sarajevo: General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader who has been indicted by the international court for war crimes, denounced the US-brokered peace plan at the weekend, saying it had to be renegotiated. (Stacy Sullivan writes). Appearing in the Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidja during an anti-Dayton protest, he said his people could not live under the "butchers' rule".

be committed to Bosnia. Now they are packing their bags.

The President mingled with the troops, shaking hands, slapping shoulders and saying: "I'm proud of you." Later, he and his wife Hillary ate turkey with the troops in the canteen.

Mr Clinton emphasised that he was relying on President Milosevic of Serbia to ensure the Dayton agreement was not unrolled by Bosnian Serb leaders such as General Ratko Mladic. "We fully expect that President Milosevic will take appropriate steps to ensure that this treaty is honoured a written," he said.

President Clinton yesterday ordered the deployment of 70 American troops to Bosnia as part of the Nato peacekeeping force to do "preparatory work".

Leading article, page 11



Striking French electricity workers wave red flags after taking over a distribution station in Brest

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Times 4/95

US divided over new Nato chief

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JAVIER SOLANA, the Nato Secretary-General-designate, yesterday drew praise and criticism from the United States as his appointment sparked an immediate rift between the Clinton Administration and its Republican opponents in Congress.

President Clinton, before returning to Washington from Madrid, described the Spanish Foreign Minister as "one of Europe's great leaders", while a letter to the White House from six leading Republicans criticised the appointment of a man at odds with US policy in Europe.

The senators complained that an anti-Nato record undermined his position at a time when America was sending 20,000 troops to Bosnia on an alliance mission. The letter said Spain was not a full member of Nato's military wing and that its Socialist Government had criticised America's trade embargo against Cuba.

Senator Robert Dole, the Majority Leader, and Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the foreign relations committee, joined colleagues in describing Señor Solana as "a dedicated Socialist with an extensive public record in opposition to Nato... At this moment, with troops poised to enter Bosnia," stated the letter. "Nato can ill afford to be led by a candidate whose credentials are in question."

The Clinton Administration actively supported the Spaniard's candidacy and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said that he and Mr Clinton had confidence in Señor Solana's strength and leadership abilities.

Missionary bishop canonised

Rome: The Pope canonised yesterday a French bishop who became a priest after the French Revolution and founded an order that now has missionaries in 68 countries. Charles Joseph Eugène de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, was hailed by the Pope as "a hero of faith, hope and charity" at the Vatican ceremony at which he was made a saint.

Mazenod, born in 1782 into a family of minor nobility, moved to Italy during the Revolution and, after his return to France in 1802, was ordained priest in 1811. He worked with prisoners and young people and the helpers he gathered round himself

were recognised as a religious congregation (order) in 1826. **Churches appeal:** The Pope called on Roman Catholics yesterday for help in building 50 more churches in the suburbs of Rome for the year 2000, to show that the city has a "Christian heart". Rome already has nearly 1,000 churches. (Reuters)

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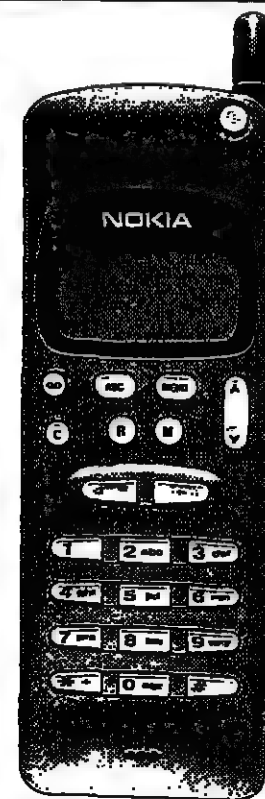
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President signs new transatlantic pact with EU to underline common destiny

Clinton pledges to build on 50-year ties with Europe

By GEORGE BROCK IN MADRID AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United States and the European Union signed a new transatlantic pact yesterday to guide their relationship into the next century.

President Clinton promised that his country would remain as closely tied to Europe as it had been during half a century of Cold War. "Today we are moving beyond talk to action," he said after signing the accord with Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, and Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission.

"Our destiny in America is still linked to Europe," Mr Clinton said. Mr Santer responded: "It is an historic moment for transatlantic relations. We will lead by example." Señor González said: "The aim is to show a clear will to act together in the pursuit of common goals."

President Clinton also said the accord "creates a transatlantic marketplace in which we continue to progressively reduce the barriers to trade, commerce and investment". French diplomats made little secret of their view that the agreement consists mostly of empty promises. It was "a lot of verbiage and some absolutely grotesque notions", one senior diplomat said.

The agenda promises closer co-operation in developing democracy across the world, fighting crime, ecological threats and disease, a further opening of world trade and closer educational links between European and American scholars and students.

The most ambitious segment of the agreement promises closer and stronger links between American law enforcement agencies and the fledgling crime-fighting organisations of the EU. The FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration are committed to closer exchanges of personnel, scientific discoveries and intelligence with the EU's Europol and the European Drugs

Unit. Extradition laws and procedures will be tightened in pursuit of a "nowhere to hide" policy.

The success of these initiatives rests in the hands of national governments in the Union, which still control access to criminal intelligence and the law-making powers on which action against organised crime depends.

The agreement also commits governments to studying how to reduce or eliminate barriers still hampering the vast volume of trade across the Atlantic. French resistance removed any mention of a possible "transatlantic free trade area" which has been promoted by a number of



Johannesburg: US Vice-President Al Gore, above, arrives in South Africa today to consolidate expanding trade relations.

The United States has outstripped European nations as South Africa's biggest trading partner and Pretoria hopes to negotiate further access to American markets, particularly for agricultural products.

Last year bilateral trade amounted to \$4.7 billion (£3.07 billion) but America took the lion's share. America regards South Africa as one of the top ten emerging markets, but investors remain cautious over security matters. (Reuters)

politicians, including Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

Transatlantic links will now be stepped up through a structured dialogue between business leaders, educational exchanges and working groups assigned to turning the wobbler statements into concrete joint actions. "The agreement marks a clear effort to act together for common objectives: democracy, the defence of human rights, commerce and the common struggle against new forms of crime such as terrorism and drug trafficking," Señor González said last night. He added that the agreement could be expanded to include countries such as Canada, Norway and Iceland.

Canada, a leading advocate of transatlantic free trade, had been particularly concerned about being sidelined from the deepening ties between its neighbour and the EU and had unsuccessfully lobbied to be mentioned in yesterday's statement.

The Commission is due to present proposals on a new economic co-operation agreement with Canada during the first six months of next year. Officials involved in negotiating the accord said that it represented an effort to turn American economic attention back towards Europe after a period of concentration on emerging markets in Asia and Latin America.

Javier Solana, the Spanish Foreign Minister who is to be the new Nato Secretary-General, wrote in the weekend edition of *The International Herald Tribune* that he hoped some of the items in the agreement's action plan, such as implementing the Balkan peace accord and helping Russia and the former Soviet states to consolidate democracy and economic reforms, would "catch our citizens' imagination".

Letters, page 19



President Clinton with Felipe González in Madrid yesterday after they signed the transatlantic agreement to promote trade and investment

Home win for 'peacemaker in chief'

Had the engines of Air Force One failed as President Clinton flew home from his five-day European trip last night, the Boeing 747 would have been kept aloft by euphoria alone.

This was a journey nearly cancelled by America's budget crisis. Congressional opposition to deploying troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina then forced the White House to truncate the visit, but it proved the most successful Mr Clinton has yet made.

The imminence of his trip was sufficient to break the deadlock over the decommissioning of IRA weapons. John Major and John Bruin, the Irish Prime Minister, unveiled their "twin-track" compromise as Mr Clinton was heading for Andrews air force base last Tuesday for his flight to London. Having helped to revive the peace process, the President then gave it an enormous shove in the right direction.

His day in London was one of pomp and pageantry — wreath-laying at Westminster Abbey, an address to Parliament in the ornate Royal Gallery, tea at Buckingham Palace, a Downing Street dinner. His day in Northern Ireland was one of such passion that even the most world-weary members of the White House press corps confessed to being moved.

Bill Clinton's trip to Europe changed politics in Ulster. It also transformed his stature from a domestic to a foreign-policy President, writes Martin Fletcher, who was among journalists travelling with him

Journalists often fail immediately to recognise the full significance of events they cover, but that was not true last Thursday. From the moment Mr Clinton was mobbed in both the Shankill and Falls Roads, it was clear that his presence was the catalyst for a display of popular will that has to change the calculations of local leaders.

Young and old, Catholic and Protestant, the people of Northern Ireland came in tens of thousands to greet the world's most powerful man in Londonderry and to see his symbolic lighting of the Belfast Christmas tree. In Dublin on Friday, the throng was so vast that those on the periphery were well beyond earshot of the giant public address system.

Mr Clinton loves to be loved. Nothing lifts him like adoring crowds, and he has seen few in America over the past three years. He plunged into these, and the Secret Service all but abandoned the unequal struggle to protect him. At every stop Mr Clinton

preached reconciliation and urged support for "twin track" — preliminary all-party talks in tandem with an independent study of the arms decommissioning issue.

"Stand firm against terror," he beseeched. "Say to those who still would use violence for political objectives: 'You are the past, your day is over.' The people's roars of approval sent an unmistakable message."

They were demanding permanent peace. They were warning their politicians that they would frustrate that goal and cling to dogmas at their peril.

As Mr Clinton flew to Germany on Saturday, there were already sounds of ice cracking. Sinn Féin endorsed "twin track". Downing Street hinted that its insistence on the IRA beginning disarmament before all-party talks was negotiable. David Trimble's Ulster Unionists found more flexibility, leaving Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists the only implacable oppo-

nents of "twin track". The trip not only transformed Northern Ireland's politics. It also completed Mr Clinton's transformation from domestic to foreign-policy President. He took office promising to reform healthcare and focus "laser-like" on the economy, but his proudest boasts now are of fostering peace in the Middle East, Bosnia, Haiti and Northern Ireland. Saturday's *New York Times* dubbed him "peacemaker in chief".

Does this help him at home? Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, punched the air when he saw the British coverage of Mr Clinton's day in Northern Ireland. The American coverage was more muted but the television pictures will surely have bolstered his support among the 40 million Americans claiming Irish descent.

It is true that foreign-policy achievements alone do not win Presidents re-election, especially in the post-Cold War era. However, Mr Clinton has now shed a reputation for incompetence in international affairs and looks increasingly presidential as he struts the world stage.

Tomorrow the President will plunge back into his monumental battle with Congress over the budget and future role of the Government with his stature invaluable enhanced.

Gingrich takes back seat to lessen election damage

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FACING withering criticism from Democrats and plummeting popularity in the polls, Newt Gingrich has decided to withdraw from the limelight as the face of America's Republican revolution.

During a closed meeting with colleagues on Capitol Hill last week, the House Speaker is said to have acknowledged that he had "thrown one too many interceptions" and planned to "sit on the bench for a while".

Although Mr Gingrich will still be considered the architect of the revolution, the party is considering various replacements as the voice for the Republican message, including John Kasich, the House budget committee chairman, Trent Lott, the Senate majority whip, and J.C. Watts, the Oklahoma congressman.

The decision has come at a time of mounting political pressure for Mr Gingrich a year after he was credited with a Republican takeover of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. It also coincides with a Democratic campaign to demolish the Speaker as an evil Republican force in the run-up to next year's presidential campaign.

"He's been driving off a cliff and could quite easily damage our chances next year," said one senior Republican staffer

on Capitol Hill yesterday. "If this were next October we'd probably lose the election. But it isn't and there is still a chance to change that."

Mr Gingrich has denied reports that he has decided to sideline himself, saying that he "meets with Republicans every day... I'm here. That should be the only answer," he said. "Here I am, I'll let you decide."

Mr Kasich also rallied behind him yesterday, describing him as the "quarter-back" and "best messenger" for the party. But party leaders are said to have been fielding hundreds of calls in recent weeks asking for Mr Gingrich to tone down his language.



Gingrich: architect of Republican revolution

FBI swoops in mission to halt Manhattan auction of moon rock

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FBI AGENTS entered a Manhattan auction house and confiscated a small, uninspiring piece of stone that was being offered for sale. Phillips, the auctioneer, claimed that the exhibit, for which the seller wanted about \$4,000 (£2,600), was a chunk of lunar rock. The FBI said that, if that was true, the moon rock belonged to the American State.

The rock was, so to speak, the star exhibit in a sale of scientific curiosities. The catalogue described it as "a

sizeable, unique and unusual lunar rock specimen". It said that the rock had been given to its late owner, a Mr Trochmann of Georgia, by a NASA astronaut. The astronaut had been "a close friend".

Nasa, which has yet to confirm that the rock is genuine, said that all geological bounty from lunar expeditions belongs to the Government. An official noted that the Trochmann rock is similar to a moon rock retrieved by the 1969 Apollo 12 mission

that disappeared in the post in 1970 while en route from Nasa to a researcher in Los Angeles. A retired postal inspector who read about the Phillips auction had recalled the mystery of the missing lunar rock and alerted the Postal Investigative Service.

Mr Trochmann's sons, Brian and Ron, who brought the rock to auction, answered charges of theft by saying that in the early days of lunar research Nasa guarded moon rock less jealously than it does today.

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IT SAYS
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ ICE SHOW

With music by David Essex, *Beauty and the Beast* goes on ice at the Albert Hall
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

The Kronos bring their latest string quartets to the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

... while at Covent Garden Maria Ewing wields a mean dagger as Tosca
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

A mammoth new biography of the author Tennessee Williams uncovers new material
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

Marcus Binney explains how London's Somerset House can become a stately pleasure dome again

Revenue out, capital gains

Three years ago, with a tremendous fanfare, Michael Heseltine announced that he was seeking imaginative new uses for London's finest Georgian public building, Somerset House. Yet today the great court off the Strand remains packed with cars, the buildings around are filled with Inland Revenue offices, and the magnificent 480ft terrace overlooking the river is empty and dead, except for the eastern end which serves as home to a cluster of Portacabins and the bicycles of King's College students.

There is just one gleam of hope. There is talk of a galaxy of private collections moving into the river wing, with pride of place in the river wing going to the Courtauld Galleries, which have so successfully occupied the Fine Rooms on the Strand side.

The need, though, is not just for more heritage uses, but for a whole new vision. The architect of Somerset House, Sir William Chambers, frustrated that George III would not build the magnificent royal palace he had designed, turned his energies to what was to be London's greatest public building since the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich. In the words of Lord North, the Prime Minister of the day, it was to be "an object of national splendour".

In recent years, the tendency has been to see Somerset House as a giant version of Burlington House in Piccadilly, where the Royal Academy is surrounded by learned institutions. But use by charities and educational bodies simply means more offices.

What is needed at Somerset House is a complete break from the limitations of 9am-to-5pm office use or, for that matter, 10am-to-6pm museum hours. There must be a reason for people to stroll into the great court in the evenings and see it like any other London

square, with windows aglow. The flanks of the great court originally consisted of rows of terrace houses for senior officials. Walk round to the side courtyards and you can see the extraordinary sight of the original front doors floating in space above the basement areas: the steps to the doors were taken away when the wings were converted into offices in the 19th century.

I believe the flanking wings of the great court should be

Convert the flanking wings of the great court into hotels

converted into elegant "town house hotels" of the kind which flourish in Bath and Edinburgh. The conversion to offices has actually made this easier, for it introduced spiral corridors in place of repeating staircases, while preserving well-proportioned rooms. Good, colour schemes and handsome furnishings would make them a most attractive, secluded place to stay. Nor do town house hotels always have to be expensive. In Edinburgh you can stay in a beautiful first or second-floor room in the New Town — with four-poster bed — for £55 to £65 a night.

If Somerset House was in Paris, the great courtyard would long ago have been excavated to put the cars underground or to create a shopping mall. John Harris, the biographer of Chambers and a long-standing campaigner for the enlightened use of his masterpiece, advocates "a Conran-style brasserie to bring people into the court after the theatre". It

could be largely underground. Somerset House has deep, well-lit double basements all the way round.

In the small sunken courts just inside the main entrance an open-air café has been established, while opposite, at a still deeper level, there is a glass-roofed restaurant.

The other abiding problem is that Somerset House is in a cul-de-sac. Only those with official business are likely to venture in. "Despite persistent efforts, the Government was never able to buy up the adjoining houses along the Strand," Harris says. "So the main front is no wider than the old Somerset House which stood on the site, and goes largely unnoticed by passers-by."

In the 18th century you could walk through Somerset House to the river. Chambers was forced to keep open Duchy Lane, a right-of-way from the Thames watergate up to the Strand, and created a walk as magnificent as anything imagined by Piranesi. Today no one sees or uses it, as the way is blocked from side to side by a huge Inland Revenue canteen.

Get the bulldozers to work and within weeks Londoners could enter Somerset House from the Embankment, under a glorious arched and colonaded bridge, walk up past the houses of the Commissioners of the Navy and enter the great court through another triumphal arch.

For years, the Revenue has been seen as the bogey, unwilling to move at any price from comfortable central offices with free car parking. The Revenue lawyers in the east wing are also conveniently close to the barristers of the Temple and the Strand Law Courts.

Today, Revenue staff are spread across a series of



John Harris, who wants to see "a brasserie to bring people into the court after the theatre"

buildings in the Aldwych area. This is not just as a result of current building works in Somerset House: even when these are complete, there will not be enough space for all staff. "What the Revenue wants is for all its staff to be on one site. If alternative accommodation was available near by, we'd take it," I was told. The big question is whether

the public and the cognoscenti will accept private uses for some of the buildings as a price for opening Somerset House up and making it an appealing place to walk through in the evenings and at weekends.

There has to be a case, given that the public sector has failed for so long, for allowing private investment in the pro-

cess, providing funds to help the Revenue move. Edmund Burke, the great philosopher statesman whose reforms of government were the spur to the building of Somerset House, declared that the glorious courtyard "would render the metropolis of Great Britain famous throughout Europe". It could be so once again.

A big Ben in the making

Kate Bassett finds out what Ben Walden has in common with his new role in *The Glass Menagerie*

Ben Walden, the actor and offspring of the former MP Brian Walden's stormy second marriage, is fast becoming a star in his own right. At 26 Walden has already appeared in Channel 4's *Camomile Lawn*, made his West End debut in Peter Hall's *Separate Tables*, and won admirers as the young Martin Chuzzlewit in the BBC's mighty Dickens adaptation.

Now he is about to hit the West End as Tennessee Williams' autobiographical and father-and-son drama, *The Glass Menagerie*. Sam Mendes' potent production of Williams' memory play about family oppressiveness, youthful frustration and fragility is transferring, with Claire Skinner and Zoe Wanjama, to the Comedy Theatre, from the Donmar Warehouse.

Walden, like a manic sprite with his upturned nose and slanting ice-blue eyes, identifies with his role. "I've always wanted to play this part," he says. "By a coincidence, too, Ben Chaplin [from whom Walden takes over the role] is one of my best mates from Guildhall." Walden left the drama school after a few weeks and headed for America. "Ben and I used to talk about how we wanted to play Tom," Walden remembers.

"I feel I have a lot in common with the character," he continues. Tom is desperate to be a writer, though trapped in a dead-end job supporting his vulnerable sister and dominating mother, a faded belle naggingly conventional about her children's futures. "The main thing about Tom," Walden says, "is the frantic desire to escape. I was always keen to get away from England. The way this country is rooted in traditions is crippling."

Artistically speaking, he sees a connection between his acting and Tom's writing. "The reason I act is that it gives you an opportunity to express all those things you want to say, but everyday life constrains. Like all actors," he adds more jauntily, "I've also had those times when your life feels as if it's going down the drain." If Tom had to work in

a warehouse, Walden was distributing leaflets on Oxford Street at 20.

Reports of Walden's earlier years have suggested greater trauma. His father's marriage to Jane McKerron, the novelist and erstwhile *Tatler* racing correspondent, ended dramatically when Ben was five. Ben's stays at her friends' houses were followed by his being cared for by an affectionate working-class couple before being sent to a boarding school, which he hated, until he went to Westminster. Ben apparently did not see his



Walden: "The thing about Tom is his desire to escape"

father for years, except on television's *Weekend World*. Today Walden is annoyed with histrionic media rewrites of his story. "It always gets distorted into, 'His childhood was a tragedy'. Family relations seem to have improved. "Brian would have liked me to pursue a more academic career but never discouraged me from acting," Walden observes. "And now things are going well, he's quite keen on the whole idea."

McKerron, incidentally, worked for Joan Littlewood in her twenties. "She used to tell me how exciting theatre workshop was," her son recalls. "My father had no theatrical connections, although politics and acting are more similar than he'd like to admit."

● *The Glass Menagerie* opens at the Comedy Theatre (0171-369 1731) on Thursday

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THEATRE
Hidden banality
Swinging Canteen
King's Head, NI

THIS is not a show to write home about, and since it purports to be a morale-boosting entertainment for American troops in wartime London, it is nothing they would have wanted to write home about either, unless complaint was the tone.

We are supposed to be watching one of the all-girl bands popular in that period, and fronted in this imaginary case by a Hollywood star recently fired by MGM. Of course this background is just so much piffle, as are the sulks and bitchery that contrive to threaten the close harmony within the band. They are

uses intended to disguise the now banal format of OOSAA. One Old Song After Another. Since no particular singer, group or songwriter can be made to represent the essence of 1944, we are given a dozen or so numbers that happened to be around at the time: *Don't Fence Me In*, *Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive*, etc.

Most are sung with reasonable competence but without making you glad you made the journey to hear them. Some of the close harmony trios come near to the style of the Andrews Sisters, which is probably the intention, and reproduce the silly flicks of the hand that passed in those days for emphasis.

But the backstage storylines, for which three off-Broadway writers pooled their talents, are drivel. Saxophone has stolen Percussion's boyfriend, Clarinet is the movie star's niece. I enjoyed the double entendre of *The Deepest Shelter in Town*, sung knowingly by Jessica Martin, but I could have lived without it and I recommend that you do.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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CLASSICAL CHOICE
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

DVOŘÁK'S STRING SEXTET
Reviewed by Stephen Dodgson

Dvořák's only string sextet was his first work to be premiered abroad: in Berlin in 1879. The huge success of his *Slavonic Dances* and Brahms's sturdy championing of him had done wonders for his confidence — and, wherever he was happy, Dvořák wrote chamber music.

The music's enormous charm is the too-exclusive focus of both the Vienna recordings on CD. In the case of the Vienna Octet, this emphasis is both fresh and attractive, and the 24-year-old recording bears up well, but not quite well enough to warrant Decca maintaining it at full price. The Vienna Sextet has the advantage of a modern recording on EMI, but a clinging sentiment cramps the expressive range.

Britain's Raphael Ensemble (Hyperion CDA 66308) provides a telling contrast, with a more open lyricism matched by a conspicuously thoughtful approach to colour. The players disappoint only when their seriousness gets the better of directness and simplicity. They are outstanding for sheer exuberance by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields Ensemble, (Chandos CHAN 6771), who brilliantly project the work's carefree spirit. The version loses marks, however, for omitting the first movement repeat.

Three Czech string quartets, each taking on board the two extra players required, are substantial rivals. Oldest is the Smetana, with a very broad tempo for the first movement and a rustic vigour in the Furiant, enjoyable but rather dense (Supraphon 11 1469-2). A thin recording removes nearly all the tonal bloom from the Talich recording (Calliope CAL 9217), but — for a student of Dvořák's score — there is the cooler compensation of notable clarity and directness.

However, the Panocha Quartet's is easily the best recording (Supraphon 11 1461-2, £12.50). The vivid playing exactly mirrors a consuming delight in the Seder's unassuming genius.

● Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barbican Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Elisabeth Schwarzkopf

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THEATRE
Dickens returns to the Barbican as the RSC revives its staging of *A Christmas Carol*
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM
Desperately seeking a First Lady: Michael Douglas plays *The American President*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



POP
East 17, full of the sounds of *Thunder*, play three nights at the Albert Hall
GIGS: Fri, Sat, Sun
REVIEW: Monday



DANCE
Twyla Tharp sets the Royal Ballet in motion to the music of Rossini
OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Rare and beautiful sighting

POP
Stone Roses
Corn Exchange, Cambridge



Giving nothing away: Ian Brown, lead singer of the Stone Roses, plays it cool in Cambridge on Friday night

THE Stone Roses are expert in the laws of supply and demand, where less means more. Theirs is not so much a career as a state of suspended animation. Two albums in a decade, a six-year lay-off since the last British tour: this is not what the Chancellor would call high productivity. Yet like some exotic bird, whose beauty is much extolled but rarely witnessed, the Stone Roses generate a level of extraordinarily passionate interest.

Pulling out of their stalling role at this year's Glastonbury Festival, after guitarist John Squire injured his shoulder, only fuelled the faithful's ardour. It was not just mischievous irony which named the second album (released a year ago) *Second Coming*. There was tense, almost edgy anticipation among the fans. Would it happen? Would it be worth the wait? questions prompted by the band's reputation for blistering live performances and obstinate unreliability.

There was a wave of relief as the introduction to *Breaking Into Heaven* echoed across a deserted stage which was cloaked in smoke and lit by shafts of ultra-violet light. As more smoke billowed forth, punctured by an array of coloured flashes, singer Ian Brown drooped plaintively, "I want to be adored." He was, of course; this was love at first sight.

The drama of their arrival was followed by a roller-coaster ride of songs: the up-tempo *She Bangs the Drum*, the wistful *Waterfall*, the thundering drums and sweeping chorus of *Ten Storey Love Song*. These were pop songs for the rock generation, each powered by the bass of stalwart

John (Mani) Mountain and new drummer Robbie Maddix, and embellished by Squire's guitar, with its super-highway connections to the ghosts of Jimmy Hendrix and to the memory of Led Zeppelin.

The mood of benign pleasure was disrupted, however, by the anxious paranoia that started with *Good Times*. Huge lightbulbs swung hypnotically from the ceiling, while piercing beams dissected the air, creating a cat's cradle of light. Squire's guitar mimicked disrupted reason as it

squealed and yelped. The tension dissipated, though, as the pyrotechnics meandered into self-indulgence.

The show faltered, and then struggled to regain its coherence, through an acoustic interlude which included the pub ballad *Your Star Will Shine*. Even when they reverted to the R&B rumble of *Low Spreads*, things were still on the slide. Not that they seemed to mind. Like their fellow Mancunians, Oasis, the Stone Roses are not products of a rock'n'roll charm school. On stage, they give nothing away. It is an hour

before Brown, hidden behind sunglasses and a woollen hat, addresses the audience.

But then comes the glorious celebratory chorus of *Made Of Stone*. Squire, his hair falling across his face and his back arched, creates a cascade of notes and chords, pushing Brown's voice and the song to a wonderfully up-beat finale. It is a moment to cherish, a sighting of that rare bird: the Stone Roses in flight.

JOHN STREET

CONCERTS: Brendel thrills Manchester with his Schubert; Jansons explores the music of 1945

Last but not ultimate
Hallé/Nagano
Free Trade Hall,
Manchester

ALFRED BRENDL has acquired hero status with the Manchester audience at last. A full house came to the Free Trade Hall for a Hallé concert including major scores by Mozart and Bruckner, and displayed far less enthusiasm for those than for a solo piano piece. Even Brendel, who has given better performances of Schubert's Impromptu in B flat, must have wondered about the justice of it.

What his Schubert did have was spontaneity, above all a sensitivity to changes of harmony. That quality was less evident in Mozart's Piano Concerto in B flat, K595. It sounded as though he had set out to exclude any hint of personal charm. He did not deny

himself some delicate decorations to the melodic line in the Larghetto, but he did deny the conductor broad nuances in colouring and expression.

Kent Nagano had prepared the Hallé Orchestra well for Bruckner's Seventh Symphony — so well that the legato string sound was applied to the piano concerto as well. Stylistically incongruous though it was in Mozart, balanced with finely tuned woodwind and firmly articulated brass it was just right in Bruckner.

There was playing of much beauty here, particularly in the lyrical Moderato passages. If the need to indulge in a little more of the same led to a too slow Trio section in the middle of the next movement, Nagano and the orchestra did at least have the technique to make the most of what they were doing.

So why Nagano's Bruckner inspired a less enthusiastic response than Brendel's Schubert is not clear. The concert was overlong; but that was not the problem. It was more that there was little sense of progress towards a goal. When they got there, on the final recall of the opening theme, the effect was not the ultimate but just the last.

GERALD LARNER

Out of the furnace
LPO/Jansons
Festival Hall

THE London Philharmonic is still striding out on *The Road Beyond*. Its concert series commemorating the end of the Second World War moved from Britten's to Honegger's war requiem on Thursday in an attempt to rehabilitate the composer's seldom-performed Third Symphony.

Composed in the liberated Paris of 1945, this *Symphonie Liturgique* is a triptych of turmoil, anguish and peace. The LPO, under Mariss Jansons, gave the work strong advocacy, yet it failed to make a strong impression.

Starting with angular themes, all driven by Honegger's motor rhythms, the infernal machine gives way to the *De profundis* slow movement. Its meandering melodies seem strangely calm. The depth and the cry are

expressed only in the registers. The stuttering march of the finale depicting, according to Honegger, "blind government furnace" was, in Jansons's hand, given a banal swagger. Here, though, to quote the composer again, "there are still even birds to sing in the trees". Cello, solo violin (Joakim Svenhedén) and piccolo bring the work to an uneasy peace.

The moment is reminiscent of Mahler's vision of the wanderer finding peace in death beneath the linden tree, an image to which he alluded in his First Symphony. This was the evening's companion piece, and Jansons's performance compensated for what the first half of the concert had lacked.

This was a performance of contrasts; a violent oscillation between innocence and experience. Where the Scherzo was militaristic, the central waltz purged with sentimentality. And where the funeral march was intruded upon by the raw voices of popular music-making, its central image of rest eternal came from that same numb distance from which Jansons had begun the work and to which it seemed at times to be yearning to return.

HILARY FINCH

LONDON

SPRINGTIME RIZZLES: The Royal Opera starts the month in grand style. Sharon Sweet, Nina Tenebre and Michael Sylvester head the cast for the first revival of Elgar's *Phaedra* (1914-15). Tomorrow, Jeremy Bulloch brings back *Phaedra*, with Marina Ewing and Giuseppe Giacomini. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000) 7.30pm.

THE SHAPLETON OF THE UNEXPECTED: Elgar's *Phaedra* is a play of Shakespeare's, written when he was 70 and never publicly performed in London. Kate Ormrod and Read Rams play *Phaedra* and *Phaedra* of a perfect society, just as an angel announces the Day. Opening: Sam Wiles. Odeon, Tottenham, N15 (0181-940 3833) Tonight, 7.45pm. Until Jan 27.

HISTORIC COLLECTIVE: Trendy American music takes over the Wigmore. "The Music Machine" is a collection of Boston "sum out to be a group of composers, providing a series of seven pieces of chamber music. Happily some of our finest chamber musicians, the Albion Quartet and the English Winds, are in the performance. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-435 2141) Tonight, 7.30pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kate Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BATH: English Touring Opera arrives tonight with its acclaimed and hilarious version of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. (01225-448 840) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

EDMONTON: A Christmas treat through Neustadt's *Christmas Eve*. Scottish Opera, with its distinctly Scottish score by Edward MacLaurin. Great family entertainment. Festival, Neustadt Street (0131-529 6900) Tomorrow-Sat, 7.30pm; mats, 1.30 and Sat 2pm. Next stop Glasgow (0141-331 1234).

WOLVERHAMPTON: Last chance to see Sharon Sweet and Paul Shelley in Tom Stoppard's *Archer*. A witty, intriguing comedy that is a pastiche of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. Roman, pastiche style. Co-

LONDON GALLERIES

BARBICAN: Dana Carrington (0171-438 4141). British Library Galleries. John Ruskin 1795-1821: first editions, manuscripts, portraits, notes (0171-412 7111). Hayward Art and Power. Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (0171-828 3144). National Portrait Gallery. Richard and Mary Cosway (0171-330 0055). Royal Academy. David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-438 7438). "Seaport". William Turner (0171-438 7438). "Tate Art Now". Marcel Broto, Dymallys. Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8800). V & A. Jan Aronson. Design Now: San Lorenzo Silverware Studio, Milan (0171-438 8600).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jersey Kingpin's assessment of theatre showing in London

Houses full, returns only

Seats at all prices

HYSTERIA: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali. In Terry Johnson's surreal, double act, directed by Phyllida Lloyd in the Royal Court Classics series. Dali of Yonkers, St Mary's Lane, WC2 (0171-585 1522). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mats, 1.30 and Sat 2pm. Next stop Glasgow (0141-331 1234).

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen D'Arcy's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodson as the all-knowing Scotland Yard, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pliers of society. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5055). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats, Wed, 2.30pm. Sat, 2pm.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Eloquent and successful production by Sam Mendes of Strindberg's Swedish chamber play. Jack Derrin, Patricia Hodge, Sam Phillips and Lesley Wilson (who are remaining in the cast) are excellent as the four main characters. Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-734 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 8.15pm.

NEW RELEASES

CANDYMAN 2 (18): Fabled adventures of the urban bogeyman created by Clive Barker. With Tony Todd. Polygram. Director, Clive Barker. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031).

SLUBA (15): Overweight French tale of a lecher who who seduces his wife's friend. With Vanessa Paradis, Gérard Philipe. Director, Jean-Claude Cocteau. Polygram (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031).

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount Hamlet. Over-much comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Redford, John Collins, and others. Director, Kenneth Branagh. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031).

MAD LOVE (12): Antonio Banderas' shadow life of a runaway lover, with Drew Barrymore. Director, John Dahl. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031).

MURDER IN THE FIRST (15): Fleets by absorbing Al Pacino. Director, John Dahl. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). (0171-434 0031).

CINEMA GUIDE

Small Theatre's assessment of films in London and (where indicated by the symbol +) on release across the country

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (U): John Ford's wonderful 1946 western about Wyatt Earp, with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell and Victor Mature. Revue (0171-434 0031).

THE SANTA CLAUSE (U): Over-the-top holiday comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. Director, John Pasquin. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031).

ODD MAN OUT (15): A 1946 film about a man who is a social outcast. Director, John Ford. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031).

MYSTERY (15): Modest chamber piece about a young French housewife. With Joely Richardson, John Hall, Julie Walters. Director, Nancy Mehl. MCA Home Video (0171-434 0031).

GOLDENEYE (12): Pierce Brosnan returns as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour. With Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell. MCA Home Video (0171-434 0031).

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES
LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1 (0171-493 2107). An exhibition of modern British artists. 1900-1945. 27 Nov-30 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

MacGillivray - Macdonald, Christmas Exhibition. Paintings under £5000. 14 Duke St, St James's London SW1 & 16 Burlington Arcade, London W1. Tel: 0171 835 7633.

SPINK. The Botanical Garden, Wakehurst, by Gillian Bower. 29 Nov-2 Dec. Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm. Tues-Sat 9am-7.30pm. Sun 10am-5pm.

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English National Opera
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000
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Tomorrow (Sat 7.30) *WATERS OF VENICE*
The Royal Ballet
Tonight (Fri 7.30) *THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG*
Tomorrow (Sat 7.30) *THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG*
The Royal Opera
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SUNSET
"Winner of 7 Tony Awards" including
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Starring
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"UNDISCOVERED" D Exp
FIVE GUYS
"HATED" D Exp
SOUTH STAMFORD YEAR
Mon-Thurs 8pm Fri & Sat 8.15
LAST 2 WEEKS
FORTUNE 0171 835 2238
From 13 Dec. A Magical Xmas Show
THE ENCHANTED TOWN
"A real treat for 35 year olds" Jan

COMEDY

COMEDY BO & CO 0171 389 1731
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Eve 7.30, Mon Wed & Sat 3.00
MAMIE CUSACK
MARGARET TYZACK
PAUL BRATTACHAN
INDIAN INK
"TOMMY'S THEATRE"
A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY
PREVIEW OF A PLAY TO
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Today, Dec 4, 7.30 & 8.00
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"A RESORT THEATRICAL
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White knuckle ride 19.45 daily
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The origin of mass may be too small to find

No trifling matter

PROFESSOR Stephen Hawking likes to provoke, but his latest sally is something special. He has suggested that the £15 billion machine being built at CERN, the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Geneva, is unlikely to find its principal quarry, the Higgs boson.

This would be a pity, to say the least. Atom smashers of ever-greater power have produced a theory, the Standard Model, which works well in explaining the nature of matter and the forces that hold it together. One gap that remains is the origin of mass. Edinburgh physicist Dr Peter Higgs suggested that all particles might acquire mass by interacting with an undiscovered particle, the Higgs boson.

To find it, the theory suggests, we have to collide protons together at energies that could be provided by the new machine, the large hadron collider. To find the origin of mass would be momentous, which is one reason why CERN has skillfully managed to raise the money to build the machine.

Enter Professor Hawking, with an unwelcome message. In a paper submitted to *Physical Review D* he argues that thanks to the structure of the universe at the very finest



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

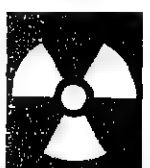
scale, the Higgs boson may be invisible. At these scales — across distances of only ten to the power of minus 35 metres — the world is dominated by quantum effects, which cause particles and tiny black holes to appear and disappear all the time.

In his paper, Professor Hawking argues that the black holes that appear do so in pairs, and during their brief lifetime will both attract particles and scatter them outwards. According to his calculations, a Higgs boson that is scattered in this way will lose its quantum coherence.

Regular quantum theory says that you cannot know both the position and momentum of a particle at the same time. But the equations suggest that for the Higgs boson you cannot know either its position or its momentum.

This makes the particle a very strange cove indeed, which Professor Hawking is at a loss to describe. But he is pretty sure that if the equations are right, it will be undetectable. Other physicists remain sceptical. "It's wild and provocative," Dr Malcolm MacCallum of Queen Mary College in London told *New Scientist*. Dr John Ellis, the top theoretician at CERN, is more dismissive. "I don't believe the argument," he says.

Radiation is no threat to superbug



A DOSE of radiation of about 500 rads would mean almost certain death to you or me. But the bacterium *Deinococcus radiodurans* would shrug that off.

Experiments by Dr Kenneth Minton of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, have shown that the bug can spring back to life after doses of 50,000 to 300,000 rads. Such a gigantic blast shatters the bacterium's chromosome into hundreds of fragments, but somehow the cells have the ability to reassemble the jigsaw.

In as little as 12 to 24 hours, he has found, the bugs are up and running again. How they acquired the ability is a mystery, as the Earth has never been exposed to such high levels of radiation, but in *Science* he and colleague Dr Michael Daly speculate that it may be a side-effect of the bacterium's ability to recover after severe dehydration.

Telescopes 'film' supernova debris



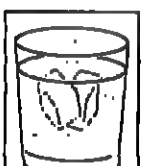
A WORLDWIDE network of radio telescopes has been used to take a unique "movie" of a supernova explosion.

Astronomers in Europe and the US pointed their dishes at 1993J, the supernova discovered in 1993 by a Spanish amateur astronomer. The images show the debris from the explosion of a massive star in the constellation Ursa Major spreading outward at a speed of 10,000 miles per second.

So far, there is no evidence that the material is slowing down.

Although the debris is expanding symmetrically, it appears brighter on one side than the other. Some astronomers have suggested that this is the result of the debris colliding with a companion star but, as there is no evidence of slowing, the research team suggests in *Science* that this cannot be true. Another explanation is needed.

Freezing theory ends up in hot water



DOES hot water really freeze more quickly than cold when you put it in a freezer? And if so, why? The question was originally raised in 1969 by a Tanzanian student, Erasto Mpemba, who found that ice-cream mixture froze more rapidly if he put it the freezer hot. The observation defies common sense, but seems to be true, to judge by a flurry of letters in *New Scientist*. Plenty of readers appear to have spent the intervening years doing experiments and convincing themselves Mpemba was right.

So why does it happen? One straightforward explanation is that warm water in an ice-tray melts an ice-up freezer, making better thermal contact and increasing the rate of heat transfer, more than offsetting the greater amount of heat that has to be removed. Michael Davis of the University of Tasmania, who provides this theory, says the

effect was noted first by Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) when he put wooden pails of water on ice. Another explanation is that a film of ice forming on the surface of cold water insulates the rest, slowing down freezing. Not so, says David Auerbach, a South African physicist who works in Germany. He has a far more subtle theory.

In 103 experiments, he found that the Mpemba effect was by no means a hard and fast rule, but believes that when it happens it is the result of supercooling. Water must usually be cooled to well below zero before ice crystals suddenly form, and this can sometimes happen at a higher temperature in water that was formerly hot.

But the ice that forms is mushy, still largely consisting of water. If it is really solid ice you want for your gin and tonic, cold water always makes it first, Dr Auerbach says. So it looks as if Mpemba was right and wrong at the same time: not an uncommon experience in science.

Why magic pennies are the main attraction

Anjana Ahuja
on how a
chance
discovery has
helped to teach
children the
power of
magnetism



Highwire trick: a young visitor to an Institute of Physics exhibition watches a penny coaxed along a metal coathanger

an expenses-paid invitation for him to exhibit his magic pennies at its annual congress in Telford earlier this year.

Among the mindboggling feats possible is "Blow Spinning Olympics", where a chain of pennies is dangled vertically from a magnet. The last coin in the chain can be made to spin by blowing at it through a straw. Levitating pyramids can be constructed, and without touching, the magnets can coax pennies along metal coathangers.

This last experiment — the remote rolling of pennies by a magnet — is the one that has stunned the experts. All it takes is a flexible steel coathanger, a thin board (a table mat, for example), a penny and a magnet. The horizontal bar of the coathanger is arched in the middle and then taped tightly to the board so the arch is vertical. A penny is placed flat on the board at one end of the arch. By sliding the magnet underneath the board under the arch, the penny moves across the board. By orienting the magnet in a certain way, the coin can even be made to roll along the

underside of the arch. "We are still waiting for someone to find a record of anything like this having been performed before," says Prof Willson. According to the IOP, this remote rolling of pennies defies an intuitive explanation, and is now in the process of being patented.

Otherwise, the strange powers of the pennies lie in the intuitive science of magnetism. Unlike copper, iron can be made temporarily magnetic by being placed alongside a magnet. In a metal or other material, each atom is made up of a positively charged nucleus and negatively charged electrons. Because a moving electrical charge produces a tiny magnetic field, and these electrons dance around continually, each atom acts like a miniature bar magnet.

In most metals, these atomic bar magnets point in random directions and cancel each other out. A big magnet, however, will cause some of these tiny bar magnets to be pulled in one direction. The tiny bar magnets no longer cancel each other out, and they cling to the magnet. Whipping the magnet away makes the aligned atomic magnets flip back to their original random state.

Professor Willson set up the Magic Penny Society, whose aims are to extend the public understanding of science and to raise money for cancer patients. With the help of a £10,000 loan from Brunel University to cover initial costs, the society has produced boxed sets of pennies and extra-strong magnets.

Also included in each set is an explanatory booklet of simple experiments, written by Professor Willson together with Professor Patrick Riley, a friend from University College London, and Daniel Harris, a Brunel graduate. The sets have just been launched and should entertain adults as much as children.

Since Roderick — now eight and in full remission from leukaemia — was the inspiration behind turning a chance discovery into a way to enthral and educate children about science, initial proceeds from sales of the Magic Penny sets will go to St Bartholomew's Hospital.

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● Magic Penny sets, priced £19.99, are available from Harrods. Information about other stockists from Educational Liaison, Brunel University (01895 214000).

Some of
the
professor's
tricks
seem to
defy logic

INSIDE
SECTION
2

Sport for all
Raiders of the lost art
PAGE 34

ASTHMA
HOW CAN
SCHOOLS
CLEAR
THE AIR?

Asthma affects a million school children and is increasing.

This week The Times Educational Supplement investigates the causes and shows how schools can help sufferers to keep up with their education.

The TES. This Friday at your newsagent.

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Rise and rise of the daddy's girl

They are often chic, usually wealthy and always impeccably well connected. They know what they want and, more importantly, so do their fathers. Expert man-pleasers, they spurn the stridency of the power-suited female. **Jason Cowley reports on a fascinating new breed: the daddy's girls**

YOU SEE them sometimes, these daddy's girls, recumbent and graceful on the pages of a glossy magazine, famous for being born of fame and eager to profit from the striking familiarity of their names.

Clinging to their lightly-won celebrity, these aspiring girls peer back at us from photographs through a thin veil of self-promotion. They seem to have nothing to declare except their notable antecedents — and their intense yearning for recognition. They are the daddy's girls and they have penetrated every walk of life.

Time was when every powerful father seemed to want an equally powerful son. In every major profession nepotism was the key that opened doors — but predictably only for boys. Nowadays, though, it is daughters rather than sons who seem to be benefiting from the invisible hand of paternal preference.

A characteristic of some daddy's girls is that they are essentially man-pleasers. If you work with one you will recognise the signs — the flirtatious femininity, the way they are often the first to laugh at the boss's jokes, the sly suggestiveness. It is as if their father-fetishism has been transposed into the workplace, with the boss becoming the new figure from whom they seek approval.

Publishing magnate Naim Attallah has always employed young women with successful fathers. "I love being surrounded by these daddy's girls," he says. "Because they feel so loved, they are loving themselves. They show a lot of affection to the boss and can be very flirtatious in a non-sexual way, just as very young girls can flirt with their



Chris Patten and Laura: is there a secret sadness?



Barry Norman and Samantha: a name to open doors



Michael Heseltine and Annabel: a famous father can be "a bloody nightmare"

fathers. But I fear other women envy their confidence, and their advantages."

Germaine Greer believes that it is no longer acceptable for fathers to help their sons: "By helping the son it is as if the father is somehow castrating him. It's the Oedipal thing — fathers help their daughters but not their sons."

But hold on. Is it not paradoxical that, after more than two decades spent railing against the hegemony of patriarchy, many women who call themselves feminists are in positions of responsibility not because of merit but because of paternal influence?

"Look," Greer counters, "anyone who thinks we live in a meritocracy is sadly misled. If your father is someone whom other people want to please, you will use this to your advantage, just as women have always used their big brown eyes and their long, long legs. Anyway, some of

these women with famous fathers, like Esther Freud and Alexandra Shulman, are genuinely talented. A clever girl will always command her father's attention."

Esther Freud spent much of her early childhood separated from her father, the painter Lucian. When she was very young her mother took her and her elder sister Bella to Marrakesh to follow the hippy trail, but, lost in the hysteria of the counter culture, Esther felt her father's absence like a presence. She is now very close to him. Freud even produced an original drawing of his daughter for the jacket of her debut novel, *Hideous Kinky*.

"I find his method of work completely inspirational," Esther says. "While not offering actual advice, my father has always been very supportive."

and the greatest thing I have learnt from him is patience. He works very slowly but never gets frustrated. When I was younger I felt I wanted to be creative before I had actually created something. But I now understand what it takes to be creative."

The recent BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* was vibrantly sustained by daddy's girls, with at least five daughters of successful fathers among the small cast, including the fabulous Jennifer Ehle. Although she is the daughter of the screenwriter John Ehle and the actress Rosemary Harris, she was cast in her breakthrough role of Calypso in *The Caramelle Lovers* without any assistance from her parents.

Film critic Emma Norman, daughter of the laconic Barry, also owed her breakthrough to serendipity. "I was working for a computer magazine when another magazine in the same group asked if I'd like to review some videos," she recalls. "I never dreamt I'd end up reviewing films for a living."

She admits, however, that she would never have received her career-transforming offer had she been called anything other than Norman. "Of course, my name has opened doors for me — and it's a very good name. Still, I've experienced a lot of hostility in my life. I remember people hating me at university even when they had never spoken to me. They expected me to be snooty or arrogant."

Alexandra Shulman, highly

rated editor of *Vogue* and eldest daughter of the veteran theatre critic Milton, agrees with Greer that women will use whatever advantages they have to enhance their careers. She concedes that her father's reputation may have helped her to get her first job. "After that it's up to you. You won't survive if you haven't got any talent. Still, everyone needs to exploit whatever help they can get."

And famous fathers love to help in the most unusual ways. Paul McCartney, for instance, composed the music for his daughter Stella's graduation show from St Martin's School of Art in London. That Stella was also able to call on Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss and Jasmin Le Bon to model her designs, when the other 70 students had to rely on friends and models *manquees*, may have owed nothing, to her father's influence.

Speaking after the show, one student complained: "It just shows you what money and a famous name can do." But McCartney himself was delighted: "I am the proudest dad in the world."

But for some a famous name can prove too gloomy a luxury. One less than successful daddy's girl is Chris Patten's daughter, Laura. She caused quite a stir a few years back when she wore an eye-catching black mini-skirt at her father's investiture as governor of Hong Kong. To many onlookers this teenager, with her flowing hair and knowing smile, was fabulously exciting. Yet there was sadness behind her smile: within six weeks she had returned to London, where she spoke confusedly of

becoming a model, a television presenter or an actress.

Describing herself as "Daddy's little girl", she confessed that her father had bought her that skirt. Then she disappeared from view, her aspirations stillborn.

Singer-songwriter Kim Wilde, daughter of the rock star Marty, says she used to find her father's fame an intense burden: "When I was at art college I changed my name to Kim Smith because I wanted to escape. For a whole year no one knew who I was,

and I found that sense of anonymity very exciting. But when I had my first hit [*Kids in America*, written by her father], I realised that I'd been fighting something I couldn't change and I chose to embrace being Marty's daughter completely. I've had the accusation of nepotism screamed at me ever since, but after 15 years I know I'm established in my own right."

For journalist Annabel Heseltine, daughter of deputy Prime Minister Michael, having your life perpetually

viewed in terms of your father's "can be a bloody nightmare. You know your father's influence can open doors for you, but at the same time you wonder if people are judging you on who you are, rather than on what you can do. I was appalled recently when, after I filed a report from Rwanda, Allison Pearson wrote a piece asking what Rwanda had done to deserve a Heseltine. There I was risking my life, and this armchair journalist was writing that. It makes you so mad."

Whatever the real reasons why women quit top jobs, says **Marcelle D'Argy Smith**, they will be condemned by men as failures

We told you. We warned you. We said so. Women can't have it all but they will insist on trying. This time it's Linda Kelsey, the graceful and intelligent editor of *She* — the magazine "for women who juggle their lives", who has resigned because of "ill-health".

It's obviously far too stressful to combine the roles of lover, mother and magazine editor. And if Linda can't do it, neither can you. Remember Penny Hughes, the manager director of Coca-Cola who left her £225,000-a-year job because she wanted a baby? Now she was smart. She knew it couldn't be done and, to the applause of tabloid journalists, she left and quite a few men, she said, because she'd got her priorities straight. She knew you can't bring up a child properly

and successfully run a company. And what's more important in life than raising a child?

But hold on. What's the truth about the reasons why women like Linda and Penny leave their jobs? Why is Nicola Jeal quitting the editorship of *Elle* and Francine Lawrence resigning the editorship of *Country Living*? Why do some women suddenly leave top jobs? The truth is — you'll never know.

The reasons vary in each case and it rarely suits the company or corporation to reveal the real reason for the departure of high-profile employees. For political and financial reasons the ex-employees don't talk, and sometimes have to sign legal documents stating they won't ever discuss the terms and manner of their departure. But

The misogynists' new trophy: a stay-at-home wife

In Linda's case (she's being retained as editor at large) it could well be that 25 years spent with one company could have caused her to reassess her life and future, whatever her success and however well National Magazine Company is behaving towards her.

Whatever the reasons for successful women leaving top jobs, a gleeful and misogynist press will report — if you have a family — that here's yet another tragic example of a woman trying to have it all and failing. If you're single and childless, what a lonely

and sad creature you are, banking all on your career which has now vanished. Women can have it all, or certainly have most of it. Countless women are terrific all-round achievers. But many men at the top resent their progress bitterly and they're damned if they're going to make it easy. On the contrary — and this is a sinister fact of the mid-Nineties — many companies are making it much more difficult for women, for many men and for creative people everywhere.

In the teeth of the recession

in the early Nineties, we all realised times were tough. We pulled our oars with gusto if we had jobs. We worked harder and longer. Who'd have dreamt that the Bottom Line would become more important than people, ideals, integrity, decency and even doing the job well?

Some companies are being run by men with the creativity of dead rats and the sensitivity of camp commandants. Now the new word is "presentism". You have to

be in the office. You have to stay in the office as long as possible. They've seen we can do it in a crisis. Now we have to continue to do it. Or attend every extra work-related activity possible. The MD demands it. He works crazed hours. Why shouldn't you?

And, of course, the MD doesn't understand why you're working anyway. After all, his own wife doesn't. Ambitious men today think it is essential that they have a trophy, stay-at-home wife. And his wife invariably colludes in his selfish pursuit of personal power

because she hates the idea of him working with women. She thinks that's why he always comes home so late; she refuses to contemplate the idea that he works late because he'd rather be in the office than with his family. Yet his idea of family life is frequently to discuss "my family" with his employees.

There are many women who'd almost prefer a bit of sexual harassment to the verbal bullying and threats they now receive from MDs desperate to produce good results

for shareholders and holding companies. Many male employees suffer equally but perhaps it's easier to intimidate a woman, especially one with children.

It's as if domestic violence had spread to the workplace and there is no legislation in place to stop it. Battered employees are everywhere. But the tightening of the fists and hardening of the arteries from male bosses will surely have to cease. The culture will have to change before we all fall down.

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Matthew Parris



In guiding the world's investors, I preferred my hunches to any clever-clever analysis

You cannot, it is true, do everything from first principles. Brain surgery is a case in point. Yet by not knowing too much we can get things right amazingly often.

In saying so, one does court the danger of sounding either like one of those saloon bar "universities of life" bores, or, worse, like Mystic Meg. But what the hell! It's near Christmas. Let us dispense with judiciousness. I've made a few pretty good predictions in the past year, all of them based on ignorance.

For the past six years I have written a weekly political column for *The Investors Chronicle*. This month I will quit, for fear of getting into a rut, but it's been interesting and I've been fortunate to write it.

One Monday morning in May, it struck me that John Major might call a leadership election. I had heard him say, many months before, and in a fed-up way, that for three-halves he'd throw in the towel. Of course this is the kind of thing bosses do say all the time, but on this occasion I somehow felt that he meant it. These impressions are worth more than a hundred in-depth political briefings. This one came by chance to me — privileged, it is true, to be there — but hunches come to us all if we would only notice and seize them.

Major was in a "stiff" sort of mood. The Tory Right was already beginning its wretched strutting towards a leadership challenge in the autumn. Putting myself in his shoes, it seemed to me that almost anything would look preferable to carrying on as it was. So I wrote in that column that a resignation by the Prime Minister was, if not a likelihood, very much on the cards. The resignation occurred a few weeks later. Whether any readers noticed the coincidence is doubtful, and who cares? The guess was based not on skill or intelligence, but on looking at the sky rather than Ceefax to see whether it was about to rain.

Just stand back. Simon Jenkins did so on this page on Saturday, when he observed that those with an interest in the Ulster "peace process" need, paradoxically, to ensure it does not "move" too fast — towards the iceberg which (when you think about it you must know) lies ahead.

The same method helped me (and, no doubt, millions of Britons who do not write for newspapers) to guess that the last Budget would prove a damp squib. My prognosis (also for *The Investors Chronicle*), ten days in advance, was spot-on. It was made without special knowledge, just by avoiding cleverness.

The week before the Budget, any political columnist is under pressure to write

about the Chancellor's options. But this columnist was at a disadvantage. He does not have lunch with Cabinet ministers, and is so far from understanding finance or economics that he cannot read a balance sheet, let alone expatiate on monetary theory. My school class in Nicosia was just about to learn the decimal system when the family left Cyprus. My class in Southern Rhodesia had just learnt decimals when we arrived. I'm still trying to catch up. Was I a man to guess the shape of a Budget?

But then I thought, "hold on. One Peter Riddell says that Mr Clarke has little room for prudent manoeuvre, and Riddell's a wise owl. Two: Clarke's no fool either and must know the Tories are going to lose the next election, come what may. He doesn't want to go down as a failed shyster. The Prime Minister must think similarly."

Reader, far from submitting this line of reasoning as evidence of genius, I submit it as the sort of low-grade, practical common sense available to almost everyone except a high-powered, force-led lobby commentator. If you were the outgoing chief accountant of a small company, would you really choose to imperil its future by adopting a plan designed to win cheers for a few weeks, and make you a clown to the next generation?

You might be looking to them for a job. So I wrote the column saying as much, questioning the wisdom and even the timing of a "giveaway" or "smoke-out-Labour" strategy, and guessing that Mr Clarke would spurn the cheers of the crowd. It wasn't, I repeat, an especially clever guess: just obvious. An awful lot of things are.

So obvious, in fact, that I'm bored by the future already. Tony Blair is going to be elected, probably in 1997, with a good majority. The electorate are not fools and already suspect him to be a magician with no rabbit in his hat, but they will be impatient after 17 years for a new stage act, and he will provide them with that at least. After a while, when it has been shown that Mr Blair's hat indeed contains no rabbit, he will be roundly booed on all sides. And the pantomime will continue. The Tories will have a devil of a row, then elect another moderate as their leader. Devolution plans for Scotland and Wales, which Blair may yet ditch, will otherwise degenerate into the mother of all chaos...

...And the show will go on. There's a sort of thrill in observing, ringside, for *The Times*, Standing back for *The Investors Chronicle* to survey the wider scene has been a privilege, but a strangely bleak one.

Although he favours private pensions, he is dismissive of an insurance system, like American health provision, as being neither electorally nor practically attractive. The public will not pay for partial, and often expensive, private provision in preference to state services which they regard as free and which they have paid for in taxes.

The strikes and violence in France are a portent of wider unrest as European competitiveness falls

A whiff of French revolution

The French "nervous breakdown", to use *Le Figaro's* phrase, is part of a wider European disease. For at least 20 years, the Western European economy has been sliding backwards, when measured against the rest of the world — against America in technology, Japan in competitiveness and the rest of Asia in labour costs. By 1990, Europe had become the high-cost, high-unemployment, high-tax, high-public-expenditure region of the world. Even our technology is of the middle order. The

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William Rees-Mogg

European Community, which had been designed to make Europe more competitive, was already moving towards a bureaucratic model based on those old European dirigistes Bismarck and Colbert. To some of us, this nightmare of European decline was already apparent by 1990. The work of Jacques Delors — surely the most destructive statesman of recent European history — culminated in the Treaty of Maastricht, which made Europe still more corporatist, archaic and uncompetitive. Maastricht put us all in lock-step towards the precipice, and has destroyed or is

destroying most of the Governments foolish enough to sign it.

The electorates of Europe saw what was happening, but the Governments did not. The French electorate can hardly be blamed. Since 1990, whenever they have had the chance to throw out a French government they have taken it, and all the administrations have thoroughly deserved to be thrown out.

In Britain, John Major's administration has never recovered from the recession, which was deepened by trying to remain in the exchange-rate mechanism, nor from the humiliating way it finally left the ERM. The latest opinion poll shows a Labour lead of 57 to 25, which means that in an early general election, the Tories could not be sure of winning 100 seats. It would now take a swing of 12 per cent to restore the Tories even to their 1945 position. The Governments of Italy and Spain face political and economic problems which are far beyond them, and have the added handicap of widespread corruption.

The Maastricht treaty was a poison pill. It committed the European nations to an attempt to create a federal Europe, more than halfway to a single European state, despite the accelerating economic decline relative to the rest of the world. Worse than that, the single currency project committed those nations that wished to participate, and particularly France, to deflation in order to bring their finances into line with the rules

of the treaty and the conditions laid down by the Bundesbank.

The single currency project has reinforced the destruction of competitiveness and jobs caused by the overvaluation of the ERM. The lack of competitiveness has already caused high unemployment, and that could still go much higher.

The French strikes are as much a protest against the *francfort* policy as against Alain Juppé's proposed welfare reforms. The whole French state machine has become attached to a deflationary policy designed to maintain an overvalued currency in a period of high unemployment. The French electorate voted out the socialists; then they voted out M. Balladur; they voted in Jacques Chirac because he promised simultaneously to reduce unemployment and to maintain an overvalued franc. That the French voted for such incompatible commitments only proves that they are as bad at economics as their President. Yet they have done all that voting can do, and the political class has refused to listen.

As a result they are taking to the streets as they did in 1789, when they thought an earlier French elite was refusing to listen. Louis XVI was not much good at economics himself.

The deep discontent of Europe in decline was always bound to vent itself. France is the lava that is finding a way out. Paris is the natural volcano. In Britain, the electorate is waiting solemnly but more politely for the next election to show its full feelings. In Italy, almost any political convulsion is possible. Germany alone still seems to be at peace with itself, under the bull-like rule of Chancellor Kohl. But Germany has the same problem of competitiveness, the same high taxes, overregulation, demotivation and high unemployment. The events of Paris will not pass unnoticed in Berlin.

Peter Riddell says Mr Clarke used the Budget to reassert his brand of Toryism

Kenneth Clarke will not quietly acquiesce in the takeover of the Tory party by the nationalist Right. His decision publicly to raise the standard in defence of "a modern welfare state" is matched by an equal determination to prevent any further shift in European policy towards the sceptics. A curious autumn ritual has developed over the past two years. At the party conference, the running is made by the Euro-sceptic Right; then, six weeks later, the values of one nation, pro-European Toryism are reasserted in the Budget. One is words, the other is action. Mr Clarke's priorities will affect the Cabinet battles of the next year over the Tory manifesto. At stake is the direction of the party after the election, win or lose.

No one can accuse Mr Clarke of obfuscation or inconsistency. He is the leading representative — survivor might be a better term — of the Tory generation which embraced the post-war settlement, indeed thrived under it. He believes in a health service free at the point of use, in state education, and is committed to state pensions and child benefit as a genuine safety-net. He considers advocates of a minimalist State, several of whom sit alongside him on the Government front bench, to be living in "cloud cuckoo land".

Although he favours private pensions, he is dismissive of an insurance system, like American health provision, as being neither electorally nor practically attractive. The public will not pay for partial, and often expensive, private provision in preference to state services which they regard as free and which they have paid for in taxes.



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

is keen on shaking-up Whitehall to reduce administration. An "affordable welfare state" involves not just bringing costs under tight control, but also limiting entitlements. The growth of social security spending, for example, has been reduced from 3 to 1 per cent a year in real terms.

In the short run, this approach means accepting the sort of balanced package outlined last week — more money (though not much more) for education, health and the police, coupled with modest tax cuts. Mr Clarke believes that safeguarding public services is what people want, and a tighter squeeze on spending to finance bigger tax cuts now would have been seen, and rejected, as a

blatant electoral bribe. Labour strategists were, nonetheless, relieved that the cut in the basic rate was just 1p, rather than, say, 3p. The populist Right has already started complaining about the Budget, but they really have no alternative to offer. They would be the first to protest about lower budgets for schools and hospitals, and Mr Clarke has done as much as, and probably more than is credible to cut running costs and "waste".

The real vulnerability of Mr Clarke's approach is that it involves running fast to stand still. The Chancellor hopes that public spending can be held to a normal ceiling of 40 per cent of national income, though it could rise higher in a recession. But as I have argued before, this means that there is little scope for any sustained cut in the tax burden —

more likely a rise as the Budget Red Book concedes — while there is likely to be unsatisfied demand for services. That is why more radical solutions such as increasing private provision for care of the elderly and further education have to be considered.

Crucial though these issues are, the EU remains the litmus test for Tory loyalties. With a touch of deliberate provocation, Mr Clarke noted last Tuesday that Britain's public borrowing would be close to the "Maastricht reference level" (for fulfilling the conditions for monetary union) next year and would fall well below it in later years. The Chancellor believes there is a more than even chance that Germany and France will press ahead with a single currency in four years' time or so. There could be strong attractions for Britain to join, provided that economic convergence is genuine.

While still contemptuous of the sceptics' worries about sovereignty, Mr Clarke has stuck publicly to the Cabinet's uneasy truce of leaving the question open. However, he remains adamantly opposed to suggestions floated by some in the Prime Minister's circle, as well as by the sceptics, that the Tory manifesto should promise that Britain would not join any monetary union in the lifetime of the next Parliament. If not in the next Parliament, when? Moreover, any change in the current position would signal a victory for the sceptics, and might make any agreement over the inter-governmental conference harder.

During his interview with *The Times* on Saturday, Mr Heseltine was more coy, retreating behind references to collective decisions. But from his lofty perch as Deputy Prime Minister, he is, in practice, an ally of Mr Clarke and is certainly seen as such in No 10. The Heseltine-Clarke axis is central not only to the running of the Government, but to its strategy. Together they are a vital shield for Mr Major and a counterweight to the nationalist Right in his careful balancing of the party. Together they can veto a shift to an outright Eurosceptic position, at least before the next election.

Train set

AFTER COMPLETING his latest film, Sir Peter Hall may have taken time at the weekend to reflect on an old thespian adage and amend it slightly: never work with children, animals — or trains.

Last week he was shooting the final scene of his new drama for Channel 4, an adaptation of Caryl Phillips' novel *The Final Passage*, about the migration from the Caribbean to Britain in the 1950s. The climactic set-piece took place in the cavernous grandeur of St Pancras Station, which was teeming with extras. A modern train had been painstakingly daubed in the green livery of a Southern Region locomotive of the time. "But," says a Channel 4 source, "for reasons of economy, only the side of the train which would be seen was painted."

But the train that appeared was not showing its best side. It chugged into the station looking suspiciously blue and modern. "There was all this bright BR livery and complete consternation on the platform." Eventually the station-master stepped in and said that we could turn the train

round and bring it back in the right way.

But this wasn't easy either. They had to take it all the way up to Derby overnight to turn it round and bring it back. Sir Peter kept remarkably calm in the circumstances, but you would be best advised not to mention a certain Northern town to him.

Perhaps it was just an unusual new pronunciation, but through-

JOB CENTRE



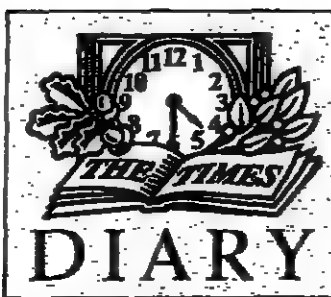
out his interview yesterday for *On the Record* on BBC1, Jimmy Goldsmith, the founder of the *Referendum Party*, referred to the hated town of Maastricht as "Mousetown".

Pink perking

SPAM, the processed meat born of wartime austerity and endured by generations of children in soggy school dinners, is to be given an image overhaul. Newforce Foods, the Merseyside producer of Spam has engaged the services of an advertising agency for the £500,000 task of promoting the pink meat, which is said, oddly enough, to be Baroness Thatcher's favourite comestible and comfort food.

A spokesman for Advertising Principles is unable to release precise details of the image to be promoted in a forthcoming TV campaign, but says guardedly: "Let's accept that it's a fun product but also a quality product. We are not trying to make it fashionable just more popular."

A radical departure at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: Christmas trees are to be sold for the first time. Plants and trees have not been sold in the past because the gardens are primarily for scientific



research. But following the one-off successful sale of orchids at a festival earlier this year, the Gardens have decided to branch out, with Norway spruce and Nordman fir.

Boo to you too

DOMINIC LAWSON, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, has taken his revenge on Alan Clark for his less than kind comments in *The Spectator* recently, where he referred to Lawson's "loathsome, sneering features" and called him "slitty eyed".

But yesterday, Lawson was more restrained in reply. In his column, he discusses Clark's much-vaunted desire to return to politics in the light of his part in the arms-to-Iraq affair and the Matrix Churchill trial.

Urging selection committees to treat Clark's C.V. with caution, he goes on to mention Clark's "adolescent bragging about his serial adultery in his memoirs", and describes it as "not very elegant or intelligent". He ends with a reference to Clark's well-preserved looks, but warns that "before selecting Dorian Gray, it would be a good idea to look in the attic".

Last post

AS A FESTIVE flourish, the managing director of Royal Mail, Peter Howarth, is sending a Christmas card to every household in the land. Some of these have already flopped onto mats, and the season's greetings, featuring the traditional robin, include the latest recommended posting dates for Christmas cards in the UK and abroad.

Europe is included, as are Asia and Australia. But of Africa there is not a word. "Unfortunately," says a representative from the Royal Mail, "but we were only including the popular destinations."

Teed off

ALISTAIR COOKE, the veteran broadcaster and journalist, has finally agreed to authorise a biogra-



Cooke in a beaverskin top

phy of himself. Nick Clarke, *Radio 4's World at One* presenter, persuaded him over a number of months of the seriousness of his intentions. "The first time I waylaid him by hanging around in the corridor of Broadcasting House and noddled him as he came out after recording *Letter from America* one day," he admits. But it was a mutual love of golf

Orchard gains

A POMOLOGIST PARSON, the Rev Donald Johnson, who has 40 varieties of apple growing in his vicarage garden, has tracked down a rare and almost extinct old apple with the curious name of Syke-house Russet.

Johnson says that he took advantage of the clerical, or grapevine in his fruitful pursuit. "A monk in Carlisle told me there was a tree growing near Doncaster," he said at his vicarage in Funtington near Chichester.

Now he has taken grafts from the rare old tree and sent the cuttings for propagation in the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. He is now not under the dog-collar in pursuit of the splendidly named Penworth Nonpareil.

P.H.S

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FRENCH WITH TEARS

Juppé is asking too big a sacrifice for monetary union

The strikes and street disturbances that have spread across France in the past fortnight have developed the infectiousness and unpredictability of an elemental force. Protesters' grievances, real and imagined, seem to have nothing more in common than a generalised sense of outrage against the State. The French political elite seems stunned by the sheer irrationality of these protests.

The French media are full of comparisons with the *événements* of 1968, when students and workers suddenly took to the streets for no very obvious reason. But perhaps the more interesting comparison is one that springs to the British mind. Could this be a French version of the winter of discontent which paralysed Britain in 1979? Just as 1979 marked the end of the failed post-war consensus politics in Britain and ushered in the Thatcher revolution, could these strikes deliver a final blow to the economic, social and foreign-policy consensus which is now failing France?

Since the mid-1980s French economic and foreign policies have been subordinated to one overriding objective: the creation of an economic and monetary union with Germany by 1999. But recently this ten-year programme has seemed under growing threat. President Chirac was elected in April on a platform of promises to stimulate the economy, reduce unemployment, promote social solidarity and put France's national interests before European concerns.

After his election, France's fitness to enter a European monetary union was increasingly questioned. The relentless growth of public borrowing as the French economy suffered from the deflationary effects of the franc's link to the mark was making it ever less plausible that France would meet the Maastricht conditions in time. As the vultures gathered in the foreign exchange markets, M Chirac was invited for a firm chat by Chancellor Kohl. He was told he must either

abandon all hope of monetary union in 1999 or take drastic action to cut the budget deficit, regardless of the political and economic costs.

This was the background against which Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, announced his radical welfare reforms two weeks ago. The reforms were indeed economically necessary and would have deserved a fair wind from the public had they been part of a serious policy to tackle unemployment and accelerate growth. In France today, however, these reforms will have the opposite effect. Tax increases and cuts in welfare spending will deflate the economy still further because they are combined with an over-valued exchange rate and interest rates determined by the Bundesbank. Far from being a victory for economic prudence, M Juppé's reforms look like the latest in a long series of national economic humiliations, aptly described as a monetary Vichy.

The sense that a foreign body is imposing national hardship is probably a powerful aggravating factor in today's French protests, just as it was in Britain in the late 1970s when the Labour Government was under the sway of the International Monetary Fund. If people are asked to accept sacrifices, they must believe that the interests of their own nation are being served. French workers do not want to lose their pension rights in the interests of Franco-German monetary partnership and European construction.

The French Government could revive the French economy and thereby win the people's support for necessary fiscal reforms. But that would require M Chirac to inaugurate a national economic policy independent of Germany, to abandon the *franc fort* and shelve the objective of monetary union. For France that would imply a political revolution on the same scale as Britain saw after 1979.

BOSNIAN BUSINESS

As the euphoria fades, the gritty work begins

President Clinton flew back to Washington yesterday after sailing across Europe's skies on a breeze of approval for his deft handling of both Bosnia and Ireland. There are a few clouds visible, but they are small and distant. Mr Clinton surprised his European partners and perhaps himself by finding his touch in foreign policy at the end of his third year as President.

But the hard part is just beginning. American diplomacy has produced agreed statements of intent on Bosnia, Ireland and on revitalising US-EU co-operation. Carrying out the Dayton agreement on Bosnia, though, will impose the stiffest test of co-ordination between the two continents since the end of the Cold War. The practical value of this week's rhetoric now has to be proved in the cold valleys of the Posavina corridor.

The Dayton agreement was concluded in America and not in Europe because of one simple, stark fact. None of the planned or proposed military interventions in Bosnia designed to separate combatants has been conceivable without American soldiers.

It follows from this that if and when American troops leave Bosnia after 12 months, the use of force for peace will be over. Two principles should therefore dominate the next few weeks as plans are finalised, parliamentary and congressional approvals sought and the first troops and equipment dispatched.

First, the American, British and French Governments must share a realistic approach to the military risks they confront and be steadfast in resisting the inevitable calls to quit before their deadline expires. To date, 214 United Nations soldiers have been

killed in Bosnia and nearly 1,500 have been wounded. While the combatants may be less hostile to peacekeepers than they were in Somalia, risk of casualties remains. The terrain is rough, the weather will soon be at its worst and there are 80,000 well-armed Serbian soldiers in the field. The Nato mission in Bosnia cannot be a "zero-death" operation. Leaders who fail to point out this simple truth will regret the evasion before long.

Secondly, the work of rebuilding the shattered infrastructure of Bosnia must be tackled in a hurry. The EU is overbidding its hand in asking America to contribute a one-third of reconstruction funds in addition to a military commitment already costing the President much of his depleted political capital in Congress. Brussels should start trying to raise more money from elsewhere.

But the greatest danger faced by Nato's Operation Joint Endeavour is a breakdown of co-ordination or communication between military and civilian work. Military planning outstrips civil reconstruction but neither can work without the other. Under the Dayton agreement, Nato troops will protect refugees if available and if requested. But the soldiers will not be rebuilding houses or laying drains. They are not to be responsible for repatriating people, arresting war criminals or even for mine clearance beyond the requirements of their own safety. The military operation, despite the vast quantities of political energy needed to set it up, is a necessary but not sufficient condition for a return to something like normal life. This week's London conference on the reconstruction effort in Bosnia needs at least as much effort as the breakthrough in Dayton.

DINNER SERVICE

Restaurant-goers should stand up for their rights

British diners must be among the softest touches in the world. Terrified of being seen to make a scene and terminally embarrassed about matters monetary, they are easily inveigled into tipping twice over. Too often, a service charge is added to the bill, but the "total" space left blank at the bottom of the credit card slip. Now the Earl of Bradford, a restaurateur himself, is introducing a private member's Bill to force restaurants to include service in their menu prices.

Restaurant service charges are one of the anomalies of British life. We do not tip the shoe shop assistant who totters up from the storeroom with boxes piled high and waits patiently while each style is dismissed as not quite right. Nor do we tip the helpful librarian, the barman or the electrician. The service sector is huge, yet the proportion that wins tips is tiny and somewhat arbitrary.

It is also true that British restaurant prices are much more confusing than those in, say, France. Knowing that most prospective diners scanning a menu will look simply at the costs of a starter and a main course, restaurant managements load the eventual bill by adding "cover" and service charges, not to speak of extortionate prices for a bottle of mineral water or a side order of vegetables. The cover charge is supposed to represent the cost of linen and cutlery; yet a hotel would not dream of charging extra for sheets and lampshades. And many people would argue that good service is as important a component of a restaurant as good food. It ought to be part of the package. There is also the question of how much of

the tip ends up in the pockets of the waiter or waitress. Few are given the exact amount that each of their tables has left them. The least scrupulous managements swallow the lot. Others divide the total between the waiting and kitchen staff according to job description and seniority. Some waiters are allowed to keep cash tips but never see the extra that is added to credit card payments.

Supporters of Lord Bradford's Bill argue that, when conscientious restaurants include service in their prices, they look as if they are more expensive than their competitors. The bad will always drag down the good unless uniformity is imposed upon them by law. But is legislation really the right answer to these problems? In a country already overburdened by regulation, a strong case has to be made before more is introduced.

All-inclusive prices would remove much of the discretionary element that currently exists. Although diners need nerves of steel to contest an "optional" service charge, they are perfectly within their rights to do so if the service is bad. And where service is not included they can graduate their tips accordingly. Under Lord Bradford's regime, they would be able to tip more but not less than the service included in the price.

Hardened consumers may want to demand an assurance from the manager that their waiter will see the proceeds. And they should complain vigorously and noisily if they are pressured to tip twice over. But it is time for diners to grow up and assert their rights; not for the State to take charge of this essentially private transaction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Budget effects on Whitehall, marriage, foreign aid, arts

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants

Sir, The Chancellor's announcement of major cuts in Whitehall spending (reports and leading article, November 29; letters, December 1) will have little effect in Whitehall itself.

Few civil servants are mandarins at departmental headquarters, circulating elegantly worded memoranda to each other, and few even work in London. That's why it is easier for ministers to indulge their rhetoric on the need to cut Whitehall bureaucracy than it is to specify which public services will disappear or be run down and which public servants are no longer necessary.

Since 1979 the Civil Service has suffered wave after wave of efficiency scrutinies, running-costs cuts, the introduction of private-sector accounting and financial procedures, devolution of budgetary control, break-up of national pay and personnel structures, market testing and privatisation. It is simply not true that massive economies are waiting to be made through the elimination of "waste".

The £860 million of cuts should be translated into angry queues at passport offices with fewer staff, longer waiting times for driving tests because of a shortage of examiners, revenue owed but uncollected by fewer VAT and Inland Revenue staff, and the effect of a slower response-time by fewer coastguards.

The Chancellor has a duty to tell the public in advance just where the cuts will land and exactly how departments will, as he said, protect "the front line of public-service delivery". Failure to do so will reveal his announcement as the cynical recipe of vote-buying and political prejudice that it was.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. SHELDON,
General Secretary,
The National Union of Civil and Public Servants,
New Bridgehead House,
5-13 Great Suffolk Street, SE1,
December 1.

From the General Director of Care

Sir, Last summer Dr Habgood, then Archbishop of York, and representatives of Care went to see the Chancellor to ask him to restore the value of the married couples allowance to its value in 1990 (report, July 27).

The increase announced in this

week's Budget, the first since 1990, does represent a significant change of government policy and we are very grateful. But when the figures are looked at more closely, it is clear that the increase does little for families: it reduces the tax bill by only 20p per week.

Only three weeks ago the Prime Minister said, in answer to a parliamentary written question (Hansard, November 6, cols 547-8), that the Government was fully committed to supporting the institution of marriage and believed that married couples should receive recognition in the tax system.

The Chancellor, in his Budget speech, said it was a myth that the tax system penalises marriage. What is not a myth is that the tax paid by married couples has risen in recent years much faster than that paid by other people. Couples where only one spouse is earning have been particularly badly hit.

The Treasury's own figures show that the tax burden on a young married couple with two children, where only one of the parents is earning, has more than doubled over the last 30 years; and this is even after child benefit is taken into account. If the Government really believes in the institution of marriage and the need to support families this inequity must be corrected.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLIE COLCHESTER,
General Director, Care,
(Christian Action Research and Education),
53 Romney Street, SW1,
December 1.

From the Director General of Save the Children and others

Sir, Your Budget report of a 5 per cent cash cut to overseas development aid in the Chancellor's Budget is a harsh blow to people in the poorest countries. Coming on top of three years of budget freeze, the slashing of another £130 million is a virtual renunciation of John Major's 1992 pledge in Rio that Britain was on the road to devoting 0.7 per cent of its GNP to development assistance. Even before the latest cut the amount achieved was less than half of that.

The Chancellor announced that "the planned allocation for bilateral [country to country] aid is likely to be little changed from that set out in last year's departmental report." However, that already includes a drop of £81 million by 1996-97, and we are still concerned

that its level may continue to fall in future years, thereby damaging essential programmes of long-term development in water, health and family-income generation.

The bulk of the Chancellor's new cut will fall on Britain's contributions to multilateral aid, which includes the World Bank, regional development banks and the European Union development budgets. This could harm vital schemes which provide poor countries with much-needed access to funds for investment in the development of their economies and people.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON
(Save the Children),
JOHN BATTEN (Actionaid),
DAVID BRYER (Oxfam),
RICHARD MILLER (Cafod),
MICHAEL TAYLOR (Christian Aid),
The Save the Children Fund,
17 Grove Lane, SE5,
December 1.

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, With an average 3 per cent cut in grants to the museums and galleries announced in the Budget I believe that we now know the truth: contrary to all government promises, the Treasury is taking into account proceeds from the National Lottery to reduce core funding for the arts.

I suppose we should not be surprised; but how depressing.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons Ltd,
119 Mount Street, W1,
November 30.

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer has acted responsibly in refusing to put party politics before the good of the economy. He has produced a prudent Budget which is likely to result in an early cut in interest rates and has been criticised for this.

Had he produced an electioneering Budget with heavy tax cuts, he would have been exonerated by the Opposition. There could well have been a threatened run on sterling, resulting in an increase in interest rates and substantial damage to the economy.

It seems that Mr Clarke cannot win.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES,
3 King's Bench Walk North,
Temple, EC4,
December 1.

EU's attitudes to Central Europe — and Britain's to EU

From Mr Alan Fulwood

Sir, Your leading article on the future relationship of the countries of Central Europe with the EU ("Bad Europeans", November 27) highlights the tendency of some EU countries to delay its enlargement eastwards.

Following the end of centralised communist control, the countries of Central Europe took the necessary political decisions to re-establish democracies which have survived an inevitable period of austerity. Great economic and political strides have been made right across the region but, after six years, the people are still looking westwards for support.

Countries which, like the Czech Republic, had strong trading economies before the war are hoping desperately that this trade can again be freed from its present restraints. The Czech Republic has cleared its external debts and established a convertible currency. It has established a free market economy that has already met the criteria that the EU has set out for its member countries for currency union.

Unless the countries of Central Europe can be given real hope of membership of the EU before the end of the millennium, then pressures will develop within them for a return to old systems. A political and economic vacuum can only produce instability.

'Flying bishops'

From the Provost of Leicester Cathedral

Sir, I thought that the brief for the provincial visitors, or "flying bishops" as they are popularly known, was to give pastoral support to the Christian people who cannot accept the ordination of women to the priesthood — not to create schism and further unhappiness within the Church, as has resulted from recent utterances of Edwin Barnes, Suffragan Bishop of Richmond (report, November 20, later editions).

At the time of the vote, in 1992, I was unhappy about women becoming priests; but as Provost of Leicester I preach in parishes throughout the diocese served by men and women. In those where women are priests-in-charge I have never heard a word of criticism from any of the parishioners.

Whilst the suffragan bishop might feel there is growing opposition to the decision of the General Synod, I also sense a growing belief that "flying bishops" are a theological nonsense — or, as a bishop wrote to me, "a prize piece of bad theology". I certainly cannot reconcile the appointments with the spirit and unity of the New Testament Church.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK HOLE,
The Provost's House,
1 St Martin's East, Leicester,
November 27.

Fraud in Oxford

From Councillor Dr Phyllis Starkey

Sir, Andrew Turner comments (letter, November 28) on Oxford City Council's fraud detection. The Labour-controlled council has for several years invested resources in detection. The government incentive scheme has partly compensated for cuts forced by capping.

In 1993-94 the system returned a profit of £1,000 on £249,000 of detected fraud, achieved with existing resources. In 1994-95 resources were doubled and £62,000 profit was returned on £603,000 of fraud. For 1995-96 resources again doubled and we are forecasting a profit of £135,000 on £1 million of detected fraud. All this is achievable by reinvesting most of the profit in extra staff. Next year it is planned to increase the team by two full-time officers.

The council's personnel committee recently approved these plans by 11 to one: the dissenting vote was from the sole Tory representative!

Yours faithfully,
PHYLLIS M. STARKEY
(Chair of Finance,
Oxford City Council),
8 Walton Crescent, Oxford,
November 29.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Tigers behind bars

From Mr Dillwyn Miles

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Red in tooth and claw", November 24) quotes Isaiah as evidence on John Aspinall's side in the dispute over the security of tiger-keepers. He might also have reminded Mr Aspinall of the words attributed to Mr Barnum (or was it Mr Bailey?) who, when asked how his experiment of placing a lion and a lamb in the same cage was progressing, replied: "Quite successfully, except that, from time to time, one has to renew the lamb".

Yours faithfully,
DILLWYN MILES,
Hendre, 9 St Anthony's Way,
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

From Mr P. A. Jay

Sir, Many activities which involve some risk to human life are considered to be well worthwhile. These include sports such as mountaineering and motor racing which often bring valuable advances in knowledge as well as the sense of achievement to the participants.

John Aspinall's work with animals is entirely admirable. If he prefers the company of a gorilla to that of Bernard Levin I can only applaud his good taste.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. JAY,
176a Sutherland Avenue, W9.

Shell's operations in Ogoniland

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace and others

Sir, According to a report in your Business section of November 13, Shell denies responsibility for environmental devastation in the Ogoni area of Nigeria. We find this extraordinary.

This week some of us met with Dr Owens Wiwa, a medical doctor and brother of the executed Ken Saro-Wiwa, after his escape from Nigeria. Dr Wiwa has been able to give us an extensive first-hand account of the operations by Shell and the Nigerian military in the Niger Delta. He assures us that the oil operations are causing public health problems and environmental destruction. In some conditions, for example, people suffer considerable respiratory distress from the choking thick black soot associated with flaring.

We have photographs of flaring in the Delta region taken as recently as October 1995. Visiting film crews and photographers have also documented dense smoke and extensive oil spills on the ground, in water and in the soil. People have died opposing the pollution. Meanwhile, Shell is focusing on other issues, such as population pressure, deforestation or even "over-farming".

There is clearly a need for an independent international mission to Ogoniland to establish the true extent of environmental damage and, just as important, to allow the people who live there to communicate freely to the rest of the world.

This mission should be permitted to move freely throughout the region, without military escorts, and have unrestricted access to local people. It should be completely independent of Shell, and would particularly need to visit the pipelines flowing through Ogoniland. The mission could include parliamentarians, scientists, representatives of non-governmental organisations, journalists and others.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MELCHETT
(Greenpeace),
JONATHAN PORRITT
(Forum for the Future),
ANITA RODDICK
(The Body Shop),
CHARLES SECRETT
(Friends of the Earth),
c/o Greenpeace,
Canonbury Villas, N1,
December 1.

Costs against JPs

From Mr John Williams, JP

Sir, I am dismayed that lay magistrates in Lincoln and elsewhere have recently been ordered to pay costs, following successful appeals against their decisions ("Should JPs be made to pay costs?", Law, November 28).

If similar cases should arise, and if it were to be proved that the Lord Chancellor's local advisory committee had failed in its duty to warn the magistrates concerned, at the time of their interviews as lay candidates for the bench, that they would have no immunity against such costs, I suggest that the magistrates should sue the committee for reimbursement.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLIAMS
(Treasurer),
British Juvenile and Family Courts Society,
44 Queen Anne Street, W1,
November 30.

From Mr Cedric Hayes, JP

Sir, There is a growing tendency to appoint stipendiary magistrates to metropolitan benches; this results from increasing workloads and difficulties in recruiting lay justices.

Threats of punitive costs, with no guarantee of reimbursement, will further hamper efforts to maintain our numbers. If stipendiaries, who sit full-time and deal with many more cases, feel similarly threatened, summary justice in England and Wales could be halted or seriously protracted.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurlough Road,
Didsbury, Manchester,
November 29.

Motorway mix

From the Reverend David Ashforth

Sir, It is no wonder your columnist was offered the bizarre choice of potatoes with risotto in a Forte Posthouse (City Diary, November 24).

If the M4 can wander as far north as Lancaster, anything can happen.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. ASHFORTH,
The Vicarage,
Balderstone, Blackburn, Lancashire,
November 24.

A record spied?

From Mr Theo Schofield

Sir, The combined ages of the four men whose obituaries you publish today — including the 106-year-old Charles Warrell, creator of the *J-Spy* books — add up to 372 years. Is this a record? If so, for how long?

Yours faithfully,
THEO SCHOFIELD,
Vane Cottage,
22 Cleveland Walk, Bath, Avon,
December 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: By command of The Queen, the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, and he accompanied His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: The Prince Edward this evening attended a Christmas Carol Concert

given by the Epworth Choir in support of the Children's Hospice Appeal at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking, Surrey.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
December 3: Princess Alexandra, President, this evening attended a Carol Concert in aid of the Children's Country Holidays Fund at the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a dinner given by Her Majesty's Royal Air Force equerries at St James's Palace at 8.15.

Prince Edward, as trustee, will attend the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Christmas party at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 7.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Field Marshal, visited Headquarters Land Command, Emsay, Wilton, Salisbury, at 11.00.

Service dinner

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment
The Deputy Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, the Signal Officer in Chief (Army), the Commander 143 (West Midlands) Brigade and the Commander 11 (ARCC) Signal Brigade were the principal guests at the annual Officers' dinner of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) held on Saturday at the Council House, Birmingham. Lieutenant-Colonel R.M. Thurston, Royal Signals, presided.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Stokes was christened Anna Elizabeth Hamilton by Dom Gregory O'Brien, OSB, at Ampleforth Abbey on November 26. The godparents are Mr Duncan Wilson and Miss Katherine Soles.

Birthdays today

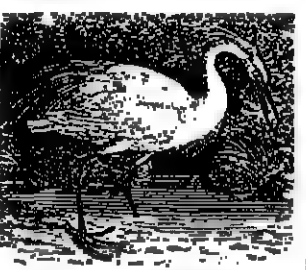
Mr Farhad Afshar, neurosurgeon, 54; the Marchioness of Anglesey, 71; Sir Stephen Barren, diplomat, 64; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, former royal equerry, 72; Mr Raul Boesel, racing driver, 38; Miss Joan Brady, novelist, 56; Mr Jeff Bridges, actor, 46; Mrs Angela Browning, MP, 49; Miss Ann Christopher, sculptor, 48; Mr Konnie Corbett, comedian, 65; Mr Hywel Davies, jockey, 39; Vice-Admiral Sir David Dobson, 57; Miss Deanna Durbin, former actress and singer, 74; Judge Head, 72; Mr Nigel Heslop, rugby league player, 32; Miss Anne Hubert, tennis player, 31; Miss Gemma Jones, actress, 53; Mr Clive Leach, former chairman and chief executive, Tyne Tees Television, 61; Mrs Pamela W. Matthews, former Principal, Westfield College, 81; Mr Richard Meade, three-day eventer, 57; Mr W.N. Menzies-Wilson, former chairman, Ocean Transport and Trading, 69; Miss Yvonne Minton, mezzo-soprano, 53; Professor Lord Morris of Castle Morris, 65; Dr A.L. Rowse, historian, 92; Miss Pamela Stephenson, comedienne, 45; the Rev C.J.M. Weir, former Professor of Hebrew and Semitic languages, 98.

RN College Greenwich

The Chapel and Painted Hall of the Royal Naval College will be closed to public view from Saturday, December 23 until Tuesday, January 2, 1996. However, the chapel will be open for public services on December 24, 25 and 31 at 11.00.

Nature notes

SONG-THRUSHES started singing in the trees everywhere last week. They are already establishing their spring songposts and territories, although they may abandon them if the weather gets severe and food hard to find. Robins and wrens are also singing more vigorously. Many little egrets have crossed the Channel from France. They were rare in England until a few years ago but can now be found, mainly in the West Country, by marsh lakes and estuaries. They are pure white herons, with black legs and bill; in the spring they will grow long wispy plumes on their backs.



The little egret

The smaller hawkweed ox-tongue is also still in bloom here and there: its flowers are a pale yellow. Under the ash-trees the ground is littered with stalks and leaves that have fallen while they were still green: next year's sooty black buds already stand out on the smooth grey twigs. Snowberry bushes are covered with white berries. This American plant has naturalised itself by streams and ditches.

Flowers still to be seen are ivy-leaved toadflax, a tiny purple and yellow flower that grows among hanging leaves on damp walls, and bristly ox-tongue, a dandelion-like flower with prickly, warty leaves.

DJM

Memorial services

Sir Gawain Bell
A memorial service for Sir Gawain Bell, colonial administrator and diplomat, was held on Saturday in Winchester College Chapel. The Rev Robert Ferguson, senior chaplain to the college, officiated. Mrs Amanda Buchan, daughter, and Mr Mark Prebble, son-in-law, read the lessons. Mr Anthony Kirk-Greene gave an address.

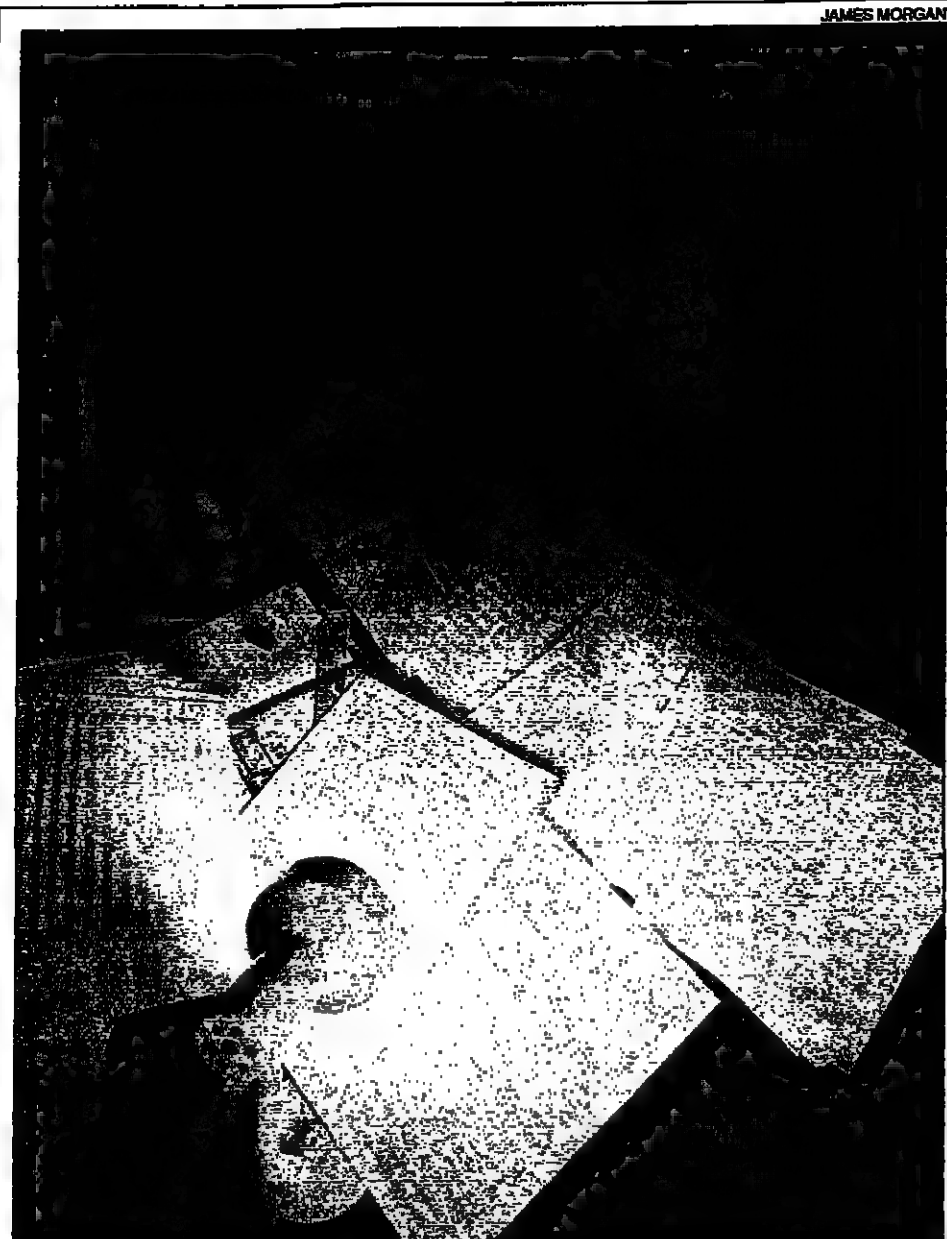
Sir Geoffrey Warnock
Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Chancellor of Oxford University, attended a memorial service for Sir Geoffrey Warnock, a former Principal of Hertford College held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev Brian Mountfort gave an introduction and welcome and the Rev Michael Chantry, Chaplain of Hertford College, officiated.

The Hon Mrs Maria Jenkins, daughter, read the lesson and the Hon James Warnock, son, read from John Donne's *Devotions*. Sir Peter Strawson and Mr John Torrance gave addresses.

Members of the Hertford College and New College choirs, accompanied by members of the Warnock family in a double string quartet, sang Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord Alway*. Among others present were:

Warnock (widow), the Hon Mrs Maria Jenkins (daughter) and other members of the family; Dr Peter North, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, with past vice-chancellors, past and present members of the college, fellows and honorary fellows, Hertford College and other friends.

Honour Patrick Medd, QC
The Lord Chief Justice was represented by Mr Justice Latham at a memorial service for his Honour Patrick Medd, QC, held on Saturday in Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire. Canon John Crowe, rector, officiated, assisted by Father John Osman, Roman Catholic Parish Priest of Dorchester-on-Thames. His Honour Stephen Oliver, QC, and Judge Paul Clark read the lessons. Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, read from John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Lord Nolan gave an address.



The composer Keith Burstein putting the finishing touches to *A Live Flame*, a piece written in memory of John Smith, the Labour Party leader, which will be premiered at St John's, Smith Square in London on Wednesday

Times's man in Morocco remembered

FROM MARK HUBAND, NORTH AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN TANGIER

AMID the thoroughly English setting of Tangier's St Andrew's Church, admirers of *The Times*' legendary Morocco correspondent Walter Harris last week witnessed the unveiling of a plaque in his memory.

The event coincided with a service led by the Archbishop of Gibraltar, the Ven. Kenneth Robinson, to mark the church's 101st anniversary. Remaining members of Tangier's dwindling expatriate population heard Harris's biographer James Chandler recount anecdotes from the life of a journalist who knew Morocco so well that he was regularly dispatched by the British Government on semi-diplomatic missions to the then unknown interior of the sultanate.

The lack of reward for these missions, undertaken regularly from his arrival in Morocco

in 1887 until after the First World War, left Harris angry at diplomatic meanness.

A brass plaque commissioned by Sir Edward Pickering, executive vice-chairman of *The Times* Newspapers, which describes Harris as "a lover of the Moroccan people", was unveiled in the church by the British Ambassador to Morocco, Sir Allan Ramsay, and *The Times*' Foreign Editor, Richard Owen.

Referring to Harris's resentment at not being sufficiently rewarded for his diplomatic efforts, Sir Allan told those gathered for last Thursday's ceremony: "I hope that my presence here may lay that ghost to rest, if it's still looming."

Fluent in Arabic and the Berber dialect, Harris would bring in many dispatches to the *Times* from the brown, short-haired *jelab*, bare, reddish

turned neck and legs, carrying a long native musket and glancing furtively as he went, just as such men from home do.

A year after his appointment to the staff of *The Times*, Harris was captured by a famous Moroccan bandit, Mual Ahmed Ben Mohammed Er-Raisuli. The account of his incarceration firmly established him, in the words of Geoffrey Dawson, then *Times* Editor, as one of the newspaper's "finest pens".

Harris died in Malta in 1933 aged 66, after years also spent in Indo-China as a correspondent for the newspaper. Sir Andrew's Church has launched an appeal to raise funds for its restoration. Contributions should be marked for Sir Andrew's Church, Tangier and sent care of the Diocese of Europe, 14 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3QZ.

Stefan George, poet, Munich, Switzerland, 1933; Thomas Morgan, biologist, Nobel laureate 1933, Pasadena, California, 1945; Benjamin Britten, composer, Aldeburgh, 1976.

Nicholas Breakspear became the only English poet, Adrian IV, 1154.

William Pitt introduced income tax, 1799.

The Dandy comic was first published by D.C. Thomson, 1937.

Christmas in Dublin, Caroline F. E. Spurgeon, 1937; John Galsworthy, 1933; John Galsworthy, 1933; John Galsworthy, 1933.

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Marriages

Mr C.R. Holland and Miss K.A.M. Webb
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Peter's, Martley, Hereford and Worcester, of Mr Christian Holland, son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Holland, of Holland Park, London, to Miss Kate Webb, daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Richard Webb, of Martley, Hereford and Worcester. Canon W.N. Richards officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Laura Webb, Emily Holland, Sophie Gilbert and Alice Holland. Mr Damian Kathrakis was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr G.C. Greig and Miss K.E. Terry
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St John the Baptist, Kingsmead, Wantage, Oxfordshire, of Mr George Greig, youngest son of Sir Carron and Lady Greig, to Miss Kathryn Terry, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Dora Terry, of Texas. The Rev Alan Wadde officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Leonora Lonsdale, Rosanna Lonsdale, Kitty Rice and Rafe Fletcher. Mr Justin Ryan Shaw was best man.

A reception was held at Kingsmead, Wantage, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.W.D. Dine and Miss V.F. Dineley
The marriage took place on December 1, at Chelsea Register Office, and was followed by a service of blessing at St. John's Church, between Richard William Daniel Dine and Victoria Francesca Dineley.

Mr E.J. Olynphus and Miss E.C. Todman
The marriage took place on Friday, December 1, 1995, at All

Saints, Farnborough, near Wantage, of Mr and Mrs John Olynphus and the late Mrs Olynphus, to Emily, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Todman.

The reception was held at The Old Rectory, Farnborough.

Mr A.F. Woolgar and Miss K.A. Hamilton
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 28, 1995, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ridgefield, Connecticut, USA, of Mr Andrew Woolgar, only son of Mr and Mrs Frank Woolgar, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, to Miss Kathleen Hamilton, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Hamilton, of Ridgefield, Connecticut. The Rev Father Michael Malone of St. Mary's University, Newport, Rhode Island, officiated.

Mr K. Fowler and Miss S. Hargreaves
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LEMBER 4 1995
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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR A. D. TRENDALL

Professor A. D. Trendall, classical art historian, died in Melbourne on November 13 aged 86. He was born in Auckland on March 28, 1909.

A MASTERLY historian of classical art, A. D. Trendall dedicated his life to the analysis and classification of figure-decorated south Italian pottery from the 5th to the 4th centuries BC. He became a world authority on the subject, and his name will always be associated with it, in much the same way as the study of Attic vases of the 6th to the 4th centuries BC will always be associated with Sir John Beazley. "I have 20,000 vases," Trendall once remarked, "all of them are vases."

When Trendall began his work, scholarly study of pottery of the 5th and 4th century had scarcely begun. The task ahead of him was daunting. Vases were scattered throughout the world, in public museums and private collections. New ones were being discovered all the time. All had to be carefully examined, their date and place of manufacture determined, their painters identified and their iconography interpreted.

It is very rare that the provenance of an ancient classical vase is recorded, but Trendall, through rigorous stylistic analysis, painstakingly established complex artistic genealogies. He worked out cross influences between successions of workshops and a variety of master-pupil relationships, demonstrating how such material can be made to yield the history of its era.

There are at least 20,300 vases extant from the period he studied. Their decoration ranges from the exquisitely complex to an almost clumsy triteness. Trendall used the information gleaned from these vases to plot a historical map. His findings formed part of the evidence of the tensions and interplay between the Greeks and the natives of southern Italy during the 5th and 4th centuries BC.

His studies were also to inform other fields of scholarship. Many of the vases, Trendall postulated, gave a visual impression of the dramatic performances of the ancient world. Some of the evidence which could be deduced from this was fairly straightforward — the late appearance of the



buskin on the Greek stage, for example. Other evidence gave more subtle indications from which such things as contemporary theatrical taste could be surmised. Trendall conjectured that Euripides, though not particularly celebrated in his lifetime, later outstripped both Sophocles and Aeschylus, while Aristophanes who was so satirically cruel about Euripides, soon lost his own small artistic following to Menander.

Trendall's lifetime of devoted scholarship is recorded in a series of monumental publications, all exhaustively detailed and extensively illustrated. Trendall constantly kept these updated, producing a series of supplements as fresh material from new

excavations emerged. Among the most important of his works are the two volumes *The Red-Figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily* (1968), *Illustrations of Greek Drama* (1972) (which he co-wrote with T. B. L. Webster), *The Red-Figured Vases of Paestum* (1987) and his most recent *Greek Red-Figured Fish-plates* (1987).

Arthur Dale Trendall, called Dale by his friends, was born in Auckland, New Zealand. His father taught woodwork and technical drawing and, though his practical artistic ability was not passed on to his son, perhaps it was from him that Trendall inherited the extraordinary visual memory and perceptiveness which was later to serve him so well.

He was educated at King's College, Auckland. When severe peritonitis confined him to a sick bed for a year he read widely and established what was to be a lifetime passion for literature. At the age of 17 he enrolled at the University of Otago (then part of the University of New Zealand) to read mathematics, but falling under the spell of one of his teachers T. D. Adams, he switched to read Classics.

In 1931 he was awarded a postgraduate scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, and he became a Fellow of Trinity from 1936 to 1940. During his long vacations he travelled extensively in Italy, and there first explored the ancient Greek colonial sites. It was his fascination for these sites, combined with the influence of Beazley, which led to his decision to study the red figure pottery produced by the Greeks in southern Italy in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The interest was to become a passion.

On graduating from Cambridge, Trendall had been awarded a Rome scholarship and went to work as the librarian at the British School in Rome for two years. The work he did there on Italian vases was to be the foundation for all his later study.

In 1939, Trendall was invited to accept the Chair of Greek at the University of Sydney, Australia, a position which he was to hold until 1954. From 1948 he also held the newly instituted Chair of Archaeology. However, his academic studies were interrupted during the war when he was seconded to Signals Intelligence. He proved to be an excellent cryptographer, working on Japanese diplomatic messages and codes.

In 1954 Trendall moved to Canberra as the first Master of University House. He was also involved in the creation of the Australian Humanities Research Council. His students remembered him as a deeply cultured man but one whose impish humour and lively wit could bring a seemingly dry and academic subject to vibrant life.

After his retirement in 1969 Trendall became a resident Fellow of La Trobe University. He continued to write and publish prolifically.

Dale Trendall was unmarried.

ANNA WAGERSTROM-TARU

Anna Wagerstrom-Taru, Estonian diplomatic representative, died on November 21 aged 79. She was born on April 3, 1916.



ANNA WAGERSTROM-TARU was the last of the diplomatic representatives to keep the Estonian flag flying at the Estonian Legation and Consulate General in South Kensington during the long years of Soviet occupation of her country.

After the death of the final surviving diplomat from the prewar period — those who had been serving when Estonia lost her independence continued to have "certain courtesies" extended to them "personally" by the British Government — the future of the independent legation appeared bleak. But, just as the Foreign Office was able to acknowledge free Latvian and Lithuanian representation, so Taru suddenly found herself administrator of the legation and able to carry on the work of her deceased colleagues.

It was a position she had neither wanted nor expected and it was to cost her much anguish as her own health deteriorated and the Soviet Government, in the person of the then Ambassador Monsieur Zamyatin, demanded to take control of the sizeable legation building in Queen's Gate in the mid-1930s. Her thwarting of this Soviet effort bore testimony to a proud spirit of Estonian independence.

Born in Tallinn, Taru was one of three daughters of a naval captain of Swedish descent. She studied domestic science and, graduating in 1936, came to London to learn English. She felt it important that she should learn to speak more languages, she would later recall, since as a student applying for a holiday job in Tallinn she had been turned

down on the basis that she spoke only four languages. "All our employees speak at least eight," she had been told.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 and the Soviet occupation of Estonia in 1940 under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet pact, Taru, classified as a "friendly alien", sought a job which would allow her to stay in London. She joined the Estonian Legation in 1942 as a secretary and was to stay there for the next 47 years.

In 1940 the Soviet Ambassador had requested that the Foreign Office hand over to his control all three Baltic missions in London. This request was denied. The Estonian Legation in Queen's Gate remained inviolate. Under the spirited leadership of the Minister August Schmidt-Torma, a veteran of the 1918-19 Estonian War of Independence, it carried on its diplomatic mission to represent Estonian interests abroad. The Estonian Legation was kept going, and with it the fine arts and crafts building in which it was housed. But with dwindling Estonian funds, Taru was to recall, this 40-roomed mansion, built in 1889 by Mervyn MacCarmey for a retired sug-

ar baron, grew colder and colder in the winter. In the mid-1960s the Wilson Government succumbed to Soviet demands and handed over some of the Baltic gold which had been entrusted to the safe keeping of the Bank of England before war. Part of this was given as compensation to British citizens who had lost assets in the Baltic states but a direct legal consequence of the action was the *de facto* recognition by the United Kingdom of Soviet occupation of all three Baltic republics.

The American Administration continued to refuse either *de facto* or *de jure* recognition of the occupation and furthermore gave full diplomatic status to prewar accredited diplomats as well as to successors they chose to appoint.

With the death of Minister Torma in 1970, closely followed by that of his successors Sarepera and Bergman, it was left to Anna Taru to continue, which she did from 1975 onwards. Although failing health forced her to restrict her life mainly to the confines of the legation, she maintained a stalwart resistance. This was never more evident than when she firmly rejected the final Soviet bid to take over the legation during the reign of Gorbachev. In her resistance she was supported and advised by many who admired her, not least among them the Estonian Consul General in New York.

However, as Taru's health deteriorated, and financial pressures mounted, it became clear that the end had come for the Estonian Legation in London. After protracted legal proceedings had exhausted every possible alternative, the building was finally sold in 1989, shortly before *glasnost* brought new freedom to Estonia.

Anna Taru's husband died in 1993. She had no children.

LESLIE WILSON



Leslie James Wilson, OBE, managing director of Bristol's Lutsgate Airport, was killed in a car accident on November 27 aged 62. He was born on January 19, 1933.

WHEN Leslie Wilson became managing director of Bristol's Lutsgate airport in 1980, he took over responsibility for a

near-bankrupt enterprise — which serving fewer than 200,000 passengers annually and running at regular losses of more than £130,000, seemed to be in terminal decline. It was left to Wilson to nurse it, not so much patiently as energetically, back to health.

In the current year an estimated 1½ million passengers will pass through the airport gates, availing them-

selves of both the scheduled and charter flights which Wilson worked so tirelessly to organise. A thriving enterprise, the business now turns over more than £20 million a year.

Leslie James Wilson attended his local grammar school in Berwick-upon-Tweed. He left at the age of 16 with no qualifications but intent on becoming a professional footballer.

With that end in view, he joined the Berwick Rangers as a part-time player. But much of his time was spent cleaning boots, painting buildings and assisting the groundsman. National Service with the RAF and a twice-broken leg soon curtailed his footballing career and, having turned down the opportunity of being trained as a pilot, he was left a somewhat directionless young man, uncertain what to do next.

An indication of things to follow had come, however, during his service days. Stationed near Baghdad he had organised coach tours for RAF personnel travelling to Babylon. These had proved extremely popular.

Back in Britain Wilson used his RAF experience as a radio operator to enter the aviation industry, working in 1953 at Newcastle airport. But in 1956 he moved to Sywell aerodrome in Northampton to

become, at the unusually youthful age of 23, an air traffic controller. He later moved to Lympne airport in Kent.

Wilson regretted not having obtained any qualifications at school and set about redressing the matter through using his evenings to study by correspondence course. He married a nurse, who had looked after him when his leg was broken, and in 1962 they moved together to East Africa, where he worked as an air traffic controller first at Nairobi and then at Lusaka airport. During this time he learnt Swahili and also continued studying for additional qualifications with the Institute of Transport and the Institute of Marketing.

In 1972 Wilson's wife died, and he and his children moved back to England where he remarried. He worked for a short while at Luton airport before moving to Bristol.

In his first six years in charge at Bristol, Les Wilson turned an annual loss of £130,000 into a profit of £1.3 million and saw passenger traffic increase by 90 per cent. In 1987 the airport became a private company, with Wilson as managing director. From then on he never stopped. He was often referred to as "Mr Bristol Airport" as he endlessly sought new ways to promote the terminal. He cajoled

airlines into bringing both charter and scheduled services to Bristol. In 1994 he was appointed OBE.

Wilson was an ebullient energetic man who never missed a publicity stunt. A raconteur, he would regale after-dinner audiences with countless airport stories. He made a point of knowing many of the West Country travel agents personally and, whenever he was advised of a special group coming through the airport, would arrange for them to be met — often seeing them personally.

Once, when an Iberia flight was diverted to Bristol from Heathrow, Wilson checked the passenger list and found that King Juan Carlos of Spain and the footballer Kevin Keegan were both on board. Having maintained an avid interest in football since his youth, he was torn as to which of them should have the airport's single VIP lounge. In the end royalty won but he admitted it was a close-run decision.

When he was not too busy at some promotional function, Wilson would be found following his wife to equestrian events and mucking out stables on their farm at Somerton where they lived.

He is survived by his wife Pat, and by three children from his first marriage and one from his second.

He was regarded, however, as a difficult man to work for, renowned for "driving his staff crazy," according to one officer, "because he was a bachelor and the guy never went home."

In 1990, shortly after the Panama invasion, Thurman was diagnosed as having leukaemia. He retired in 1991 after a military career lasting 37 years.

Maxwell Thurman leaves no survivors.

JUNIOR WALKER



Junior Walker, musician, died of cancer on November 23 aged 64. He was born in 1931.

IT IS more than two decades since Junior Walker's name was regularly in the charts but the tenor saxophone he wielded on many classic 45s still resonates. He had a devotion to this instrument which won him a distinctive place in the history of soul music.

Junior Walker was born in Blytheville, Arkansas. He was baptised Autry DeWalt III, but his stepfather renamed him at an early age. Walker was barely a teenager when, galvanised by the jump blues and R&B saxophone of such luminaries as Illinois Jacquet and Arnett Cobb, he formed his own local group called the Jumpin' Jacks.

In 1961 his dexterity with the horn won him a recommendation from Johnny Bristol, himself an emergent soul producer and writer, to Bristol's partner Harvey Fuqua. Walker cut three singles for the Harvey label with his flamboyantly named band the All-Stars, featuring guitarist Willie Woods, organist Vic Thomas and James Graves on drums. In 1964, Fuqua and his roster jumped to a much bigger ship, switching to the label with which Walker would make an enduring reputation, Motown.

Walker later observed that, although Motown Records helped him "gold-plate" his horn, he already knew how to blow it. But it was via Berry Gordy's powerful empire that the saxman became a star.

In 1965 he was inspired by a dance step to write and record *Shotgun*, which raced to the top of the American R&B charts and wasted little time crossing over to the pop bestsellers, selling a million copies. Produced by Gordy and Lawrence Horn, the track demanded the listener's attention from the very first second with a crack of gunfire. It set the pattern for the All-Stars's

signature sound: an exciting, spontaneous party groove with Thomas's organ and Woods's guitar nimbly supporting the bandleader's acrobatic Selmer Mark 6 sax lines and gritty vocals to a tight backbeat from Graves.

The recipe was successfully repeated for several years, as the group punctuated its almost constant road work by cutting such timeless singles as *Shake And Fingerpop*, *Pucker Up Buttercup* and *Road Runner*. Working with producers such as Bristol, Fuqua, and the Holland-Dozier-Holland team, Walker and the All-Stars also had success with several remakes of Motown hits from earlier in the decade, notably with Marvin Gaye's *How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)*, which brought the first of too few British chart appearances. They produced another US million-seller with the more measured *What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)*.

Walker found more difficulty in reaching an American pop audience from this point

on: ironically, he made a stronger connection with British fans at the late date of 1972, as Walker blew perhaps his most lyrical solo ever on *Walk In The Night*, which was followed into the top 20 here by a reissue of *Take Me Girl I'm Ready*.

As the popularity of his records declined, Walker left Motown for the label of his former producer, Norman Whitfield. His *Back Street Boogie* album of 1979 was followed by a new role for Walker as a front-of-stage session man in 1981, when his saxophone illuminated *Urgent*, a major American hit for Foreigner.

Such a lift to his profile brought about a reunion with Motown, for whom he recorded his last prominent record, *Blow The House Down* was released in 1983, and was made with a group now featuring his son, Autry DeWalt III, on drums. This only further enhanced Walker's reputation.

Junior Walker was married with 11 children.

GENERAL MAXWELL THURMAN

Maxwell Thurman, US Army general, died of leukaemia in Washington on December 1 aged 64. He was born in High Point, North Carolina, on February 18, 1931.

PEOPLE called him "Mad Max", and even "Maxwell-tallah", because Maxwell Thurman's style of command could be aggressive in the extreme. It was he who, while in charge of the United States

Southern Command in Panama, was widely credited with having persuaded President George Bush to use military force against the government of General Manuel Noriega in 1989.

Thurman had been due for retirement, but at the request of the Bush Administration he stayed on to command that invasion, which resulted in the eventual capture of Noriega and his forced extradition to the United States to face drug

charges; it also resulted in the deaths of hundreds (some said thousands) of Panamanians, though US casualties were light.

His reputation as a tough, take-charge commander, was forged during the Vietnam War where, after a spell as a corps intelligence adviser, he was given command of the Second Battalion, 35th Field Artillery, during the Tet offensive of 1968. Although that series of battles was a public

relations disaster for the United States, it was claimed as a tactical victory for the American forces in the field.

Thurman later became commanding general of the US Army Training and Doctrine Command and also of the Recruiting Command. In which role he became the principal architect of the all-volunteer Army. He was credited with vastly improving the standard of the average American soldier during the 1980s.

Church appointments

The Rev Nigel Abbott, Team Rector, Hemel Hempstead: to be Rector, Much Hadham (St Albans).
The Rev Anthony Atkins, Assistant Chaplain of Hope Hospital, Manchester (Manchester): to be full-time Hospital Chaplain of Rotherham District General Hospital and Badsley Moor Lane and Doncaster Gate Hospitals, Rotherham (Sheffield).
The Rev Gary Birchall, Priest-in-charge, St James, Burnopfield: to be the incumbent of that benefice (Durham).
The Rev Allison Bowman, Curate, Peachhaven: to be Team Vicar, Rye (Chichester).
The Right Rev John Brown, former Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf: to be an Honorary Assistant Bishop of Lincoln (Lincoln).
The Rev Michael Burson-Thomas, Vicar, united bene-

fice of Lockerley w East Dean and East Tytherley and West Tytherley (Winchester): to be Priest-in-charge, united parish of Fotherby and Assistant Local Ministry Officer for the archdeaconry of Lindsey (Lincoln).
The Rev Dr Perry Butler, Vicar, St Michael, Bedford Park: to be Priest-in-charge, St George, Bloomsbury (London).
The Rev Robert Clifton, Priest-in-charge designate, Orford w Sudbourne, Chillesford, Butley and Iken: as from Easter 1996 to be also Rural Dean of Woodbridge (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).
The Rev Dr Simon Coupland, Curate, Bath St Luke (Bath and Wells): to be Team Vicar, Broadwater (Chichester).
The Rev Richard Crossland, Assistant Curate (NSM), in the diocese of Southwark: now Assistant Curate (NSM), Lincoln Cathedral (Lincoln).
The Rev Simon Evans, Vicar, St Alban the Martyr (Portsmouth): to be Vicar, St Martin, Ruislip (London).
The Rev Edward Furness, Minister, The Mayflower Family Centre, Canning Town (Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-charge, St James, Aston (Birmingham).
The Rev Christopher Huitson, Vicar, Leasdesend: to be Vicar, Totteridge (St Albans).
The Rev Tom Jamieson, Priest-in-charge, united benefice of Ryton w Hedgefield: to be the incumbent of that benefice (Durham).
The Rev Christopher Lilley,

Assistant Curate, Great Limber: to be Priest-in-charge, Middle Rasen Drax, West Rasen, Toft next Newton w Newton by Toft (Lincoln).
The Rev Ian McGrath, Assistant Curate, Spilsby group of parishes: now Priest-in-charge, Asterby group of parishes (Lincoln).
The Rev John Marshall, Honorary Curate, St Saviour, Brixton Hill: to be Honorary Curate, St James Clapham (Southwark).
The Rev Susan Marshall, Curate (NSM), Lewes St John the Baptist, Southover: now Curate, Iford w Kingston and Rodmell (Chichester).
The Rev Barry Middleton, Rector, Badingham w Buntingford, Cranford and Dennington (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Sidcup (Rochester).

FEEDING THE TROOPS.

No army was ever fed with more punctuality, and no army, I believe, was ever so well fed under such very exceptional circumstances as those in which we are placed. We are fed by Balaklava alone; thence comes our daily bread. It has to be carried out day by day, and yet no man in this army has ever been without his pound of good biscuit, his pound and a-half or pound of good beef or mutton, his quota of coffee, tea, rice, and sugar, or his gill of excellent rum, for any one day, except it has been through his own neglect. Nevertheless, large as are our advantages in the excellence and regularity of the supply of food, the officers and men have had to undergo great privations. They landed, as most of us remember, without anything but what they could carry, and the officers marched beside their men, slept by them, fought by them, and died by them, undistin-

ON THIS DAY

December 4, 1861

Before launching into another criticism of the Crimean War, our correspondent, Howard Russell, gave credit to Mr Commissary-General Filder for continuing to feed the troops.

gushed from them in any respect, except by the deadly epaulette and swordbelt, which have cost so many lives to the country. Many delicately nurtured youths have never changed shirt or shoes for weeks together, and they are deprived of the use of water for ablution, except to a very limited extent. The officers are in rags. Guardsmen who were "the best style of men" in the

Parks now turn out in coats and trousers and boots all seams and patches, torn in all directions, and mended with more vigour than neatness, and our smartest cavalry and line men are models of ingenious sewing and stitching. We have out here "soldiering with the gliding off," and many a young gentleman would be for ever cured of his love of arms if he could but see one day's fighting. As to young ladies suffering from "scarlet fever," who are for ever thinking of heroes and warriors, if they could but for one instant have stood beside me and gazed into one of the pits where some 30 "clods of the valley," all covered with scarlet and blue cloth, with lace, and broderie, and blood, were lying side by side, and staring up at heaven with their sightless orbs as they were about to be consigned to the worm, they would feel the horrors of their hero worship, and would join in prayer for the advent of that day — if come it ever may — when war shall be no more.

كذا من الأصل

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ICE HOCKEY

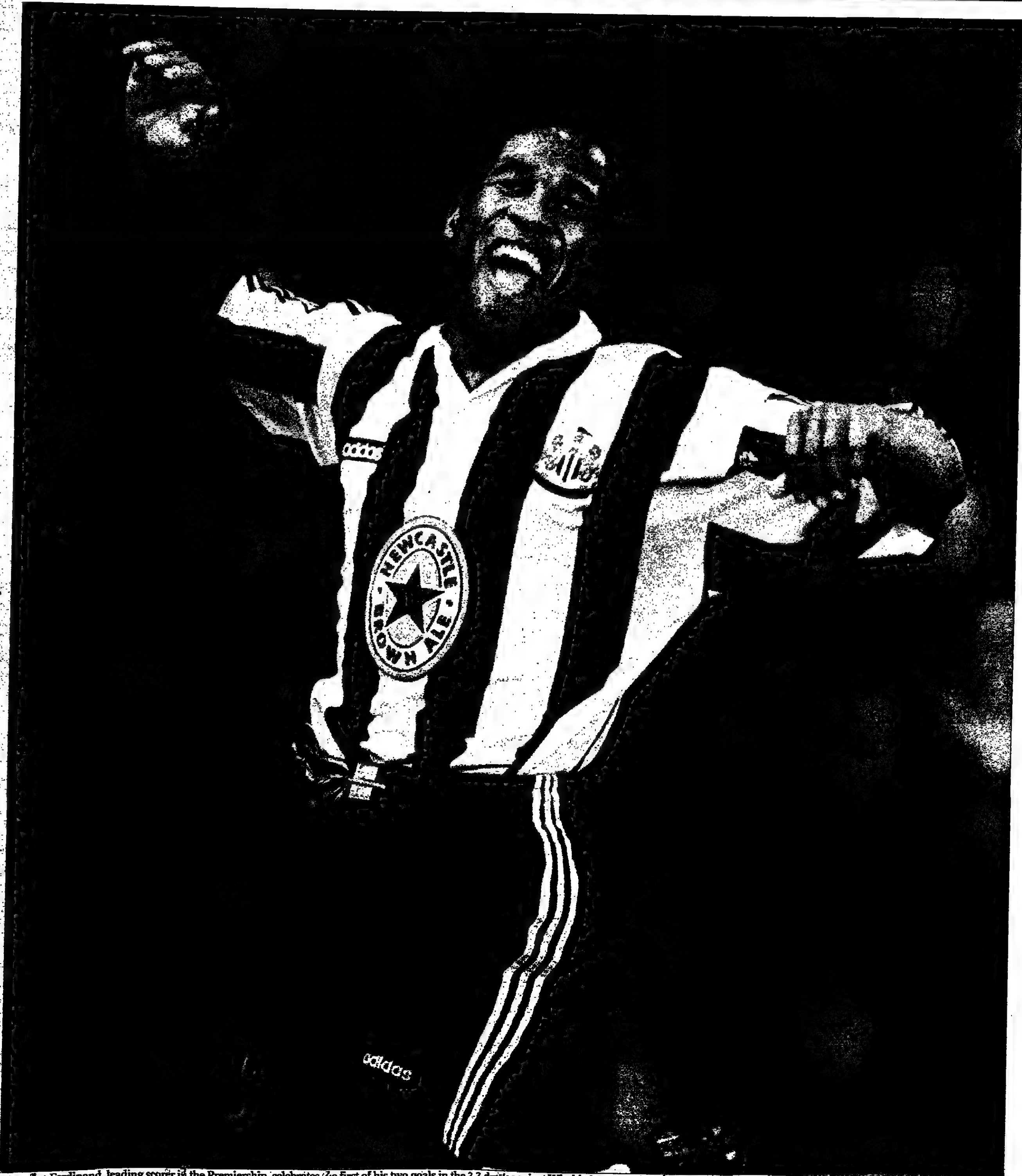


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Steelers wheel and deal their way to third title

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 4 1995

GOAL-HAPPY FERDINAND STRIKES AGAIN



Les Ferdinand, leading scorer in the Premiership, celebrates the first of his two goals in the 3-3 draw against Wimbledon yesterday. Four pages of football start on page 26. Photograph: Steve Morton

Botham takes guard for a thoughtful innings

There is, I am delighted to report, some good news from Johannesburg. The number of gratuitous bikini shots is falling. What do you mean you will not be getting a dish then? Since I first mentioned them a fortnight ago, before rain brought a premature end to the swimsuits and the cricket at Centurion Park, a more egalitarian approach has been adopted by the camera operators of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

It is not that the quick cutaway to a sunbathing beauty ("sweet-aways" as they are known in technical circles) has been abandoned altogether. But, for every glimpse of bronzing blondes there is now an equal amount of rippling South African male on show. Some, particularly those on

the dressing-room balconies, ripple with well-defined muscles, others just ripple over the long-lost waist-band of their shorts.

But there has been progress in the commentary box too. Not only have the likes of Ian Botham and Mark Nicholas learnt to keep their mouths firmly shut whenever a vision of supposed loveliness flashes up on their monitors, but the second Test has confirmed what the rain-affected first Test could only hint at — that this is the best commentary team Sky has so far dispatched on an overseas tour and the first to hold a real edge over the much-loved Test Match Special team on Radio 4.

To aid analysis, the satellite team can be broken down easily into three parts: immortals, mortals and



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Charles Colville. Let us take the immortals first — David Gower, Ian Botham and Mike Proctor.

Gower continues to improve as a broadcaster and, given the practice the BBC gave him over the summer (*Gower's Cricket Monthly*, *They Think It's All Over* and the Test matches) it cannot be long before the most popular batsman in England becomes one of its better-loved commentators. It will be interesting to see whether it is Sky or the BBC

which entrusts him first with the extra responsibility of Richie Benaud-style presentation. That is always assuming that Gower is in the market for extra responsibility.

Proctor, as the token South African, has been well chosen. His contributions have been articulate and intelligent and can be relied upon to provide a helpful guide to what, for a whole generation, is still the brave new world of Cape cricket.

But it is Botham who is the

real surprise, on this his first overseas engagement with Sky. Not because he is a brilliant commentator — he is not. But he certainly has the potential to become a very good one.

Botham appears to have completely reinvented his personality. Gone, let us hope forever, is the arrogance and boorish belligerence that made him such a great cricketer but a rather charming broadcaster on *A Question of Sport*. In its place is a quietly spoken, thoughtful commentator anxious to share his interesting views on the game. On second thoughts, it must be a different Ian Botham.

Moving on to the mortals, Bob Willis continues to be a better commentator than he is ever given credit for, while Nicholas, a man apparently

not short of confidence in his own abilities, can normally be relied upon to provide a few provocative but soundly-based opinions.

Which brings us to Charles Colville, so annoying a commentator that he is probably about to become a cult.

Yesterday, he began his broadcast 800 feet down a gold mine, doing one of his curious travelogue pieces. A lot of people will have been hoping that he would stay there. "The word I would use to describe it is claustrophobic," Colville announced, confirming his reputation for stating — and normally shouting — the blatantly obvious. He reduced the volume notably for the first Test, but the evidence from the Wanderers is that it is back to "bowled him!" as per noisy normal.

Fairbrother regains her winning touch

NICOLA FAIRBROTHER, the European lightweight judo champion, yesterday took a significant stride towards reaching the 1996 Olympic Games when she won the Swiss Open title in Basle, John Goodbody writes.

In an event which is one of a series of qualifying competitions for the Games, Fairbrother, who was second in Barcelona in 1992, showed that she had recovered from her disappointment in only finishing ninth at the world championships two months ago. In the first round, she defeated Jessica Gal, of Holland, and in the final beat Mariko Fujiwara, of Japan. Britain's other gold medal-winner was Julian Davies, a featherweight, who defeated Passi Lauren, of Finland, in the final.

McLardy ordered off

BOWLS: John McLardy was given his marching orders in the CIS Insurance Scottish Indoor Fours championship at Auchinleck yesterday. The Galleon Club skip was barred from taking his place in the second-round match against Auchinleck after a clash with the umpire, Roger Black.

Black, who was a Scottish football referee for 20 years, said: "I spoke to the player on two occasions regarding his general conduct on the green and, after the second warning, he launched a verbal attack on me within earshot of various officials and other bowlers." McLardy's place was taken by his club-mate, Willie Mackie, but their side went on to lose the match 22-7.

Enstone wins again

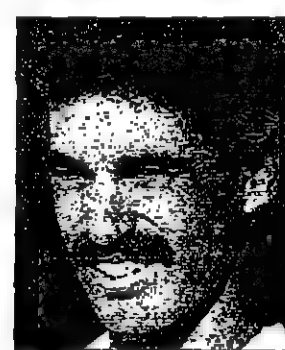
RUGBY FIVES: Wayne Enstone gave another remarkable exhibition of skill to win his 23rd national singles title at St Paul's School, Enstone, 44, still appearing as fit as ever, overcame the rugged challenge of Neil Roberts, of Yorkshire, who had a tough battle with Rick Carr in the semi-final. Enstone, head of physical education at Stockport College, has brought a new dimension to Rugby fives over the years, producing shots which defy the imagination and covering the court with unparalleled assurance.

Arsenal dispel doubts

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL: It has been a difficult season for Arsenal, double-winners last year, who are third in the National Premier League and nine points behind Doncaster Belles at the top. However, they soon dispelled any signs of a confidence crisis as they trounced the visiting Manchester United 10-0 in the Women's FA Cup at Bromley FC. United are unbeaten in the North-West Regional League, but Arsenal showed them how far they have yet to climb.

Pavin powers home

GOLF: Corey Pavin, right, of the United States, playing near-flawless golf, pulled away from the overnight co-leader, Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, to win the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa, yesterday. Pavin, the US Open champion, shot a six under par 66 to finish on 276. Price shot a 71 to finish on 281 with Bernhard Langer, of Germany, third on 283.



Lynch's double first

ATHLETICS: Nnenna Lynch, the Oxford University student who won the women's race in the University cross-country match on Wimbledon Common on Saturday, broke the women's course record in the Victory five miles road race at Portsmouth yesterday. The final-year social anthropology student from the United States missed the US championships to compete at Wimbledon in her last chance to do so.

Sheldon reaches final

REAL TENNIS: Kevin Sheldon, of Leamington, reached the final of the British Land National Over-40s championship with victory over David Johnson, the Queen's Club professional. Sheldon took an early lead, thanks to some clever changes of pace and direction, and held on to win 8-4. He meets Alan Oliver, the Oxford professional, in the final.

Carter clinches victory

LACROSSE: Middlesex became the All England women's senior county champions at Benenden School on Saturday, beating Berkshire by a late goal from Philippa Carter. Middlesex eliminated the holders, Surrey, in their semi-final which ended goalless after five minutes of sudden-death extra time, thanks to a better goal average in the play-offs.

United States crowned champions after fall of Russian pretender

Kafelnikov's surrender accepted by Sampras

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MOSCOW

PETE SAMPRAS, the foremost player in tennis, won the Davis Cup final for the United States as assuredly as Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the young pretender, surrendered it for Russia. When Kafelnikov belatedly found the qualities that have made him the world No 6, the tie was already beyond recovery.

If Kafelnikov, still only 21, is to reach the objectives that lie within the range of his talent, he probably needs to consult an adviser with more front-line experience than the am-

and forehead, but Kafelnikov's unforced errors down both flanks scuttled any chance to force the final into a fifth-match decider.

Having won his first-day singles against Chesnokov despite suffering from severe cramp, and having recovered to partner Todd Martin to an unexpected straight-sets doubles victory on Saturday, Sampras now defeated Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6, taking the tie-break 7-4 for a winning 3-1 lead.

With his usual low-key sincerity, Sampras said: "I did it for the Gulliksons. I'm so pleased for Tom." Tim Gullikson, his coach, returned home suddenly from the Australian championships this year stricken with a brain tumour, a debility he is still fighting. Tom, the captain, took the late decision on Saturday morning to include Sampras in the doubles in place of Richey Reneberg.

DETAILS

FINAL: United States 3 Russia 2. US names first. First day: P Sampras to A Chesnokov 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. Counter lost to Y Kafelnikov 6-7, 6-7, 6-4. Sampras and T Martin to Kafelnikov and A Chesnokov 7-5, 6-4, 6-3. Second day: Sampras to Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6. Counter lost to Chesnokov 7-6, 4-7, 0-6.

able Anatoly Lepeshin, his personal coach and the Russia captain.

Fred Stolle, three times a losing Wimbledon finalist, observed that Harry Hopman, the famed Australian coach, would have had a few sharp words to say when Russia had lost the doubles on Saturday. The significance of Kafelnikov's lacklustre display was emphasised when Andrei Chesnokov won the "dead" last singles against Jim Courier to make the final score three matches to two.

The margin in the first-string singles yesterday between two such accomplished men was as much mental as technical, and was wider than Sampras's three-year advantage in age. On clay, his less-favoured surface, Sampras was cruelly sharp on service

and forehand, but Kafelnikov's unforced errors down both flanks scuttled any chance to force the final into a fifth-match decider.

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Kafelnikov will certainly have gone on court knowing the enormity of his task, in front of a 14,000 full-house crowd in the Olympic indoor stadium. Victory was by no means impossible. This year he has reached five semi-finals, including the French and seven quarter-finals including the Australian and Wimbledon.

What he has still to discover is the temperament, steadiness and variation to match the big opponent on the big day. In successive Davis Cup finals, against Sweden and now the United States, he has failed.

The doubles had drifted away from Russia when Kafelnikov twice lost his service in the second set, as he



Sampras serves on the way to defeating Kafelnikov and securing a winning 3-1 lead for the United States

would do again in the third. He and Andrei Olhovskiy should have punished the tall Martin, vulnerable on low volleys, but they could take only three of 12 break points.

Yesterday, the likely outcome was quickly evident when Kafelnikov squandered his second and third service games and the set 6-2. When Sampras served to love to lead 5-1, it seemed the outside temperature of 10°C had penetrated Kafelnikov's mental re-

sistance. Sampras continued, attacking the net, ripping cross-court forehands past his opponent. When he broke for 3-2 in the second set, he was intimidatingly faultless.

Sampras on grass and fast synthetic surfaces can be near-unplayable, but now he was assembling a clay-court armoury almost as impressive. Then, at last, Kafelnikov's touch emerged and a magnificent third set ensued.

Kafelnikov had five break points for 2-0, in a game of seven deuces, but was denied. He was broken in the next game but recovered for 3-3. It was evident that Sampras was now again troubled by his hamstring.

Service breaks were exchanged, with nerve-rattling rallies and winners by both men down the lines, to reach 6-6. At 2-2 in the tie-break, Kafelnikov tried to force a forehand wide, caught the

tape and the ball jumped beyond the line: 3-2 for Sampras. The first match point was saved but Sampras clinched the second with his fourteenth ace.

Kafelnikov had denied after the doubles that he had lost interest or needed a new coach. After losing the tie he said that Sampras "didn't leave me chances to change my game". He would think later about what he had learnt. Learn he must.

Workington left to count cost of Newlove's arrival

St Helens 58
Workington 10

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS were sublime yesterday and, on his debut, Paul Newlove caught the mood. The world's costliest rugby league player joined in the orgy of try-scoring at Knowsley Road in a first pay-back on the £500,000 investment.

He left it late. In space and with the line beckoning, Newlove tripped on the greasy surface but had time to gather himself and slither over for the last of St Helens' 11 tries in the 76th minute.

Home supporters were asked to dip into their pockets by an extra £1 on the admission price, but none of the 7,000 crowd — 1,000 up on the corresponding fixture last year — could complain. In a side of experienced and aspiring talents, Newlove is a genuine addition of class.

The signs of a budding relationship with Anthony Sullivan were writ large. Sullivan is the game's deadliest wing right now, and two of his four tries, taking his tally for the season to 24, came courtesy of Newlove's strength, vision and cussedness in possession.

It was down the left side that

Workington were taken apart. "It has all the hallmarks of a great partnership," Sullivan said of Newlove, who returned the compliment. "He is a class act and as soon as he's got the ball in his hands, he's away," he said.

Sullivan's finishing was unstoppable, but the lead-up to each of his touchdowns owed everything to the inspiration of team-mates. The back row of Busby, Pirelli and the

Craig Dean and Wayne Parker, the half backs, scored two tries apiece as Halifax beat Leeds 29-10 and stayed on course to fulfil the prediction of their coach, Steve Simms, that they would finish the season as runners-up in the Stones Championship.

Hammond nearly flicked the ball through his legs for Lyon to send in Northey, but the home side's good opening was immediately stalled by Fawcett pouncing on the high ball launched and lost by Lyon in the tackle, for the first of his and Workington's two tries.

Fogerty drove over from short range, and excellent acceleration by Arnold produced a try. The momentum was whipped up again after Fawcett's try.

Until then, Newlove lurked with intent as colleagues sped through a demoralised Workington defence, but with little sign of a scoring pass. He was the provider again when he released Sullivan, who floated a precise inside pass for Hammond to go over.

Joynst scored a deserved try. Fogerty went over after a break by Cunningham and Newlove, seemingly wrapped up by two tacklers, managed to slip Sullivan clear again.

Newlove's purchase is with the Super League next year in mind. The Stones Championship is beyond St Helens, but the interest Newlove can generate will be immense, particularly after his 25th try of his career.

SCORERS: St Helens: Thom, Sullivan (4), Fogarty (2), Marney, Arnold, Hammond, Joynst, Newlove. Goals: Gooding (4). Workington: Trites, Fawcett (2). Goals: Marwood.

ST HELENS: D Lyon (capt), D Arnold, J Fawcett, J Hayes, A Marney, P Newlove, A Sullivan, B Hammond, R Gooding, A Fogarty (capt), C Marney, S J, K Cunningham, J Park, A Leachman (sub), P Robinson (sub), C Joynst, A Pirelli, D Busby (sub), P Waring (sub).

WORKINGTON: M Johnson, D Fildes (capt), P Penney (sub), L Campbell, V Fawcett, I Page, D Marwood, B Kiffin (sub), M Bellweather (sub), G Schout (sub), J Fawcett, P Dickinson, R Phillips (capt), W McGinn, J Pirelli, A Connolly, J Howarth, A Connolly.

Silver lining from Willey and Wilson

FROM CRAIG LORD IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRITAIN'S squad of five swimmers took their final medal tally at the world short-course championships to one gold, two silvers and a bronze here yesterday as Neil Willey and Ian Wilson both finished runners-up a day after Sarah Hardcastle had added a bronze medal to the world 800 metres freestyle title that she won on Friday.

Willey, at 19 the youngest



Wilson: back to form

entry in the 100 metres backstroke, spent almost six hours as the fastest swimmer in the world this year over the distance after a morning heat time of 53.47sec, his career best time and just inside the target time he had set himself for the final.

However, Rudolfo Falcon,

of Cuba, stole his thunder in the final and left the Hertfordshire teenager "a little disappointed". Willey led the race until five metres to go, when the superior fitness of the student from Havana told. Falcon's 53.12sec was a national record, while Willey's 53.23sec was just 0.08sec outside Martin Harris's British standard.

Wilson, from the City of Leeds club, has suffered a setback in fortunes over 1,500 metres freestyle in Britain these past two years. But he bounced back to finish second to Australia's Daniel Kowalski yesterday. Kowalski recorded 14min 48.51sec, just two seconds outside the British record of Paul Palmer and a personal best time.

Hardcastle, of Bracknell, won the bronze medal in Saturday's 400 metres freestyle final with a time of 4min 07.20sec.

The weekend highlights were provided by Australian Samantha Riley, who clocked a world record of 1min 05.70sec in the 100 metres breaststroke, and by Liu Limin, of China, who set a new world mark of 58.68sec in the women's 100 metres butterfly.

Results, page 32

Hendry builds lead to test Ebdon's recovery powers

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY has conjured up countless telling clearances during his career and he produced another trio on the way to establishing a 7-2 lead over Peter Ebdon in the final of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship in Preston yesterday.

Hendry, attempting to retain the title and triumph in snooker's second most important event for the fourth time, signalled his intent with a break of 118 in the first frame — his tenth century of the tournament — and the die was cast.

By missing the penultimate red, Ebdon squandered a gilt-edged opportunity to steal the second frame from 48-0 in arrears and, when Hendry comfortably accounted for the next two frames for a 4-0 advantage, it was clear that Ebdon's famous powers of recovery would be tested to the full.

Eight months ago Ebdon fought back from 4-0 down and 5-1 down to beat Hendry 9-8 in the final of the Benson & Hedges Irish Masters and, when he won the fifth frame, with a break of 76 before moving 49-0 ahead in the sixth, the possibility of another such revival loomed large. Ebdon meted a tricky red,

though, and despite the balls being far from ideally placed, Hendry, cueing with total authority, cleared to the pink with 66.

That guaranteed a 5-1 lead for the Scot and he was to benefit from a virtual action replay in the seventh frame. Ebdon, 51 points to the good, surprisingly jawed the blue to a baulk pocket and Hendry displayed his renowned composure under pressure to construct a 69 clearance.

It was a similar story in the eighth frame as Ebdon, 45-17 up, undercut a relatively straightforward black off its spot. Hendry ran out with 52 and although Ebdon won the closing frame of the afternoon, a low scoring, disjointed affair, he was still left with a mountainous task.

Hendry, already successful in the Regal Scottish Masters and Skoda Grand Prix this season, required only three of the remaining ten frames for a £70,000 first prize which, in addition to the £25,000 he received for compiling a maximum break of 147 against Gary Wilkinson in the last 16, was set to swell his total prize money for the fledgling 1995-96 campaign to £231,250.

Hendry's 9-1 semi-final victory over John Higgins on Saturday suggested that

Ebdon would find him difficult to contain. It was such a relentlessly excellent display that Higgins was left doubting his own ability eventually to displace Hendry as the world No 1.

"At this point I don't feel I've got Stephen's touch at the table and I think it could take me two or three years to get it," Higgins, the only player with-in striking distance of Hendry in the provisional standings, said.

It must, however, be taken into consideration that Higgins was considerably handicapped by a hard, unresponsive cue tip which shattered his confidence, particularly when it came to positional play.

"I tried to tell myself I'd got a chance but deep down I knew I was struggling."

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Arsenal toil without Bergkamp's guidance

Aston Villa 1
Arsenal 1

By Keith Pike

THE talk after this match was of the two handsomely dispatched headers that settled it, and the two highly dubious refereeing decisions that scarred it. But it was the absence of the one player who might have brought a touch of refinement to a typically frantic affair that was perhaps the most significant aspect of an afternoon on which the only winners were Newcastle United.

Dennis Bergkamp sat behind Bruce Rioch, his manager, in the dugout, glumly nursing the strained calf muscle that deprived Arsenal of his services for the first time. How they missed him on Saturday, and how they will again next weekend, when Holland have first call on him in preparation for the European championship shoot-out against Ireland at Anfield.

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Rioch admitted that in a little over three months, Arsenal have come to depend on Bergkamp. "He links the team," Rioch said. "We will always miss him because we have nobody else who can do what he does for us." Gone with Bergkamp was much of the precision and craftsmanship that had so distinguished Arsenal's recent performances against Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield Wednesday.

For all the industry of Platt and Merson, both desperate to catch the eye of Terry Venables, the watching England coach, the area between Arsenal's midfield command centre and their front-line troops, was a no man's land. Ian Wright was reduced to a peripheral figure, Harrison reverted to raw, ungainly youth. The long-ball game may have disappeared and Arsenal's recent murky past been distanced, but when Rioch replaced a winger, Helder, with a third centre half, Morrow, once Villa had drawn level, it was another unwelcome throwback to the George Graham era.

The controversial flash points of a match that initially simmered and then came to a

ly to the boil could normally be dismissed, leading as they did merely to two yellow cards, but as the offenders, Townsend and Wright, have both recently returned from suspension, and as both were more sinned against than sinners, they cannot be.

Refereeing standards in the Premiership this season have generally been high, but Jeff Winter's performance here was not the stuff of which long careers are made.

Townsend's astonishment at being penalised for a foul on Winterburn when he had merely — and so obviously — tried to jump out of the way of the full back's challenge was understandable, even if the verbal dissent that followed was less forgivable.

Then, in the second minute of added time, Wright burst clear of the Villa defence, only to be caught on the heel by Southgate. Winter, a first-season official, had only to determine whether it was a professional foul — even Southgate later admitted that there had been contact — but chose instead to caution Wright for diving.

Rash, impetuous, temperamental — Wright is all of these. But a diver, when the match was there to be won? Hardly.

The goals were minor classics. Yorkie's deliciously deft header, from Alan Wright's left-wing cross, contrasting splendidly with Platt's thunderous effort after he had stolen a march on McGrath to meet Merson's free kick at the near post. It was an example of Platt's still enviable penalty accuracy and allowed Bergkamp to at least have a say of sorts about the proceedings.

"That is his strength," Bergkamp said of a team-mate whose place as a possible adversary in Euro '96 next summer appears in some doubt. "A goal like that just explains why he is so important to us, and his goal-scoring record for England speaks for itself. For an English player to succeed the way he did in Italy shows that he has that extra bit of class. There should not be a doubt about him playing for England." Venables please note.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Bosnich — U Bruggu, P McGinley, G Souness, G Thompson, A Townsend, M Dwyer, A Wright — T Johnson — D Yorkie, S Miesevic. ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn — P Merson, J Jensen, D Platt, G Helder (sub: S Morrow 58 min) — J Harrison (sub: P Dwyer 87), I Wright. Referee: J Winter.

Change of plan rescues Forest

Bolton Wanderers 1
Nottingham Forest 1

By Simon Wilde

NOTTINGHAM FOREST may be the one remaining English football team with a future in Europe this season — even if that future may come to an end tomorrow — but that does not mean they cannot fall prey to the typical English failing of industry without invention.

They did so for 80 minutes at Burnden Park on Saturday before realising the error of their ways and forcing an equaliser in the last minute of a breathless match. They will be fortunate indeed if the same thing happens in Lyons.

For most of a damp and chill afternoon Forest insistently pushed the ball up through the middle, often through the hard work of Stone and Woan, in an attempt to find their front pair of Silenzi and McGregor. More often they found Bolton's big back three waiting to pounce and Silenzi, a large and slightly ungainly Italian, was sotto voce indeed. Collymore he was not.

They were clearly playing to a plan and it was a plan that did not work. Frank Clark, the Forest manager, conceded as much afterwards.

That Forest did not leave Lancashire empty-handed for the second time in a month — the last time to a 7-0 scoreline in favour of Blackburn Rovers — was because they exhibited the typical English virtues of courage, character and bloody-mindedness.

It was not so much Bolton's goal midway through the second half, as the immensity of the final whistle, that seemed to bring Forest round.

In pouring men forward,

they tried to break down Bolton's defence from the wings and then, having hardly had a chance worthy of the name, won a series of corners during a desperate final ten minutes.

Eventually, Woan fired over a testing cross, Pearce headed back into the goalmouth and Cooper was there by the post to put the ball away.

None of which does justice to Bolton, who played positively throughout and belied their position at the foot of the table.

They came out with guns blazing and it took Forest 20 minutes to catch up. Bolton dominated the midfield, from where Currie, the Serb, ran incisively and imaginatively.

It developed into fast-flowing stuff, much to the entertainment of the crowd — if not the managers.

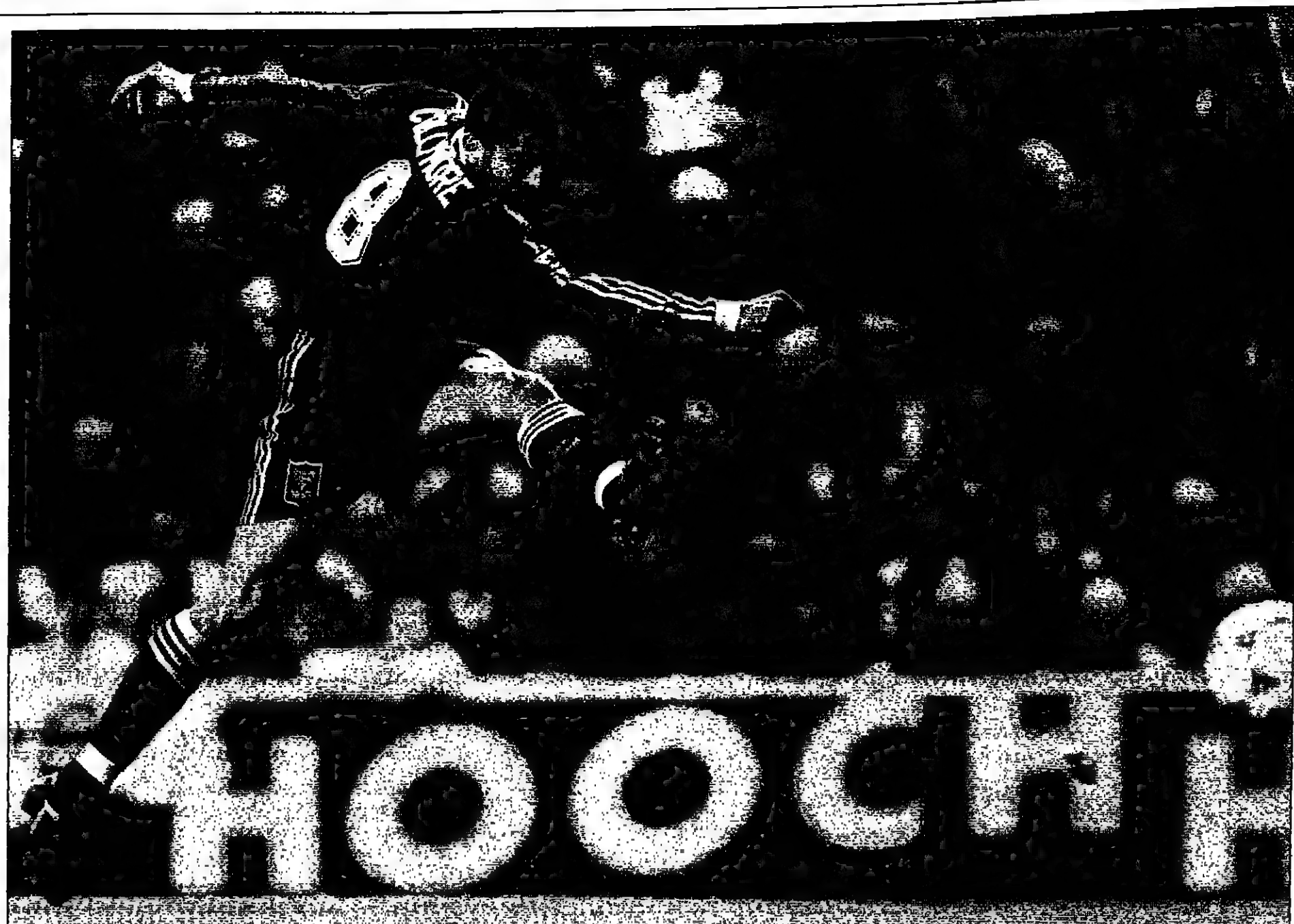
"It was too open," Clark muttered, shaking his head. "I did not like it. Too much of the passing went astray."

It was Bolton's spirit of enterprise that led to their goal. Branagan charged out of his area to clear a long pass from Stone and immediately set up a move down the left flank. The ball came through to de Freitas, who carved swiftly infield past a defender and drove home at a fine angle.

The goal briefly lifted Bolton's players to even greater heights but they flagged towards the end, as though convinced their job was done. It was not.

Nor was it the first time this season they had let the opposition off the hook.

BOLTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): K Silenzi — C Fardoulis, G Brannagan, S Green, S Currie, A Todd, A Thompson, P Phillips — J McGinley, F de Freitas. Referee: L Dixon.



Collymore, perfectly balanced, strikes in the manner expected of an £8.5 million forward to score only his third goal for Liverpool. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Collymore underlines Anfield dilemma

Football experts have been debating the recent decline of Liverpool. The passing game is all, surely, but do Liverpool overdo it? Should the supreme stylists of the English game adopt a more direct method? Stan Collymore knows the real problem. Him. Liverpool have not been scoring enough goals. Which is to say Collymore has not.

Last season I watched Collymore play for Nottingham Forest as they beat Sheffield Wednesday 7-1. It was a performance of majestic striker as mechanical fiend. This season, I saw Collymore's debut for Liverpool against the same opponents, and it was marked by a wonderful goal. Since then, just one more goal. And a public row with his club. And giving his place in the team on Saturday, £8.5 million man, to an injury to Rush. And to be there was to watch a man out of sorts with his team, his profession, himself.

Just what other industry, Collymore wondered out loud, would invest £8.5 million and then do nothing to cherish it, look after it, ease it into the system? Or ease the system to suit so colossal an investment? A well-made point, but not one that solved the immediate problems of unity of purpose.

Perhaps it is a problem of nomenclature. A forward has only to play forward, but to be a striker, a man has to strike. You can talk about a midfielder's work-rate and passing ability, but a striker's contribution is there for all to see. Liverpool goals this season read: Fowler 11, Rush three, Collymore two.

Nothing is more pathetic than the traditional defence of a striker who has lost that thing that makes him a striker. He is getting into good positions. He is laying-off well, drawing defenders. Yes, madam, the car is perfect, it's just that the wheels don't go round and round.



Simon Barnes watches Britain's costliest player save a point for Liverpool against Southampton

On Saturday, Collymore was a woeful sight. He is going through a reverse Midas period: everything he touches turns to ordure. Every lay-off ballooned out of reach; he dummed away from the ball and the rest just watched him.

Darting decisively into off-side positions. Moving into space for the pass that never comes. For once, he got a nice ball from Barnes, and Collymore, a beat late in responding, never got there. A shot, snatched without belief, sailing into the crowd. And all this against Southampton, supposed to be a soft touch. Naturally, they sang songs about a waste of money, and a few Liverpool voices joined the chorus. All the money has bought

Liverpool so far is someone to blame. They say you don't become a bad player overnight but strikers manifestly do. Craft does not desert you, nor speed nor strength nor height. But faith does: and a striker must have faith.

Who do you blame, when a striker loses faith? On Saturday's evidence, everything and everybody. There are technical explanations: the ball should be played in earlier, or maybe later, to feet, or maybe to his head, from the wings, or perhaps through the middle.

You can come up with a million psychological explanations, for strikers are often difficult customers, impossibly cocky and bowed down with insecurities. But one thing is clear: a striker out of

sorts is the falling of the whole team: the whole club.

So where did that goal come from? Southampton had played with enormous heart and much method, and Shipperley, a striker with a gourmand's appetite for work, had put Southampton ahead. A fourth successive home defeat for Liverpool looked the likeliest result.

And then the ball from Barnes to Collymore. Clough drawing defenders with a nicely-timed dummy run. And Collymore's finish: crisp, certain, decisive. In an instant, this shambling, careworn figure was transformed to the cobra of old. The striker struck. In that one half-second, Collymore played like a man you would pay millions for.

Self-confidence descended like lightning from a clear sky. The ball finished in the roof of the net, so often the sign of an ultra-confident finish. He took it as if it were his twentieth, rather than his

third goal of the season. A miracle, but then that is what Collymore is for.

For Liverpool, merely relief. They have still gone seven games without a win, dropped out of Europe and the Coca-Cola Cup, and this was only their second league point since October.

So far Collymore has been a failure: but perhaps the point has not been understood. Collymore's failure is everybody's failure. You don't invest a fortune in a man and then expect him to be a different kind of man. Or is that at heart the Liverpool error? And was that that one half-second a throwback to Collymore in his pomp — or was it a half-glimpse of Liverpool's glorious future?

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — M Keweenaw, P Babb, J Barnes, S Harrison, R Jones (sub: N Clough, 80min) — J McCluskey, J Barnes, S Miesevic. SOUTHAMPTON (4-5-1): D Bessant — J Code, R Hall, K Morrison, B Bannister (sub: M Oakley, 88min), B Vennart, M Le Tissier, J Magilton, S Charlton — N Shipperley. Referee: R Hall.

Shearer reiterates home truth

Blackburn Rovers 4
West Ham United 2

By Ian Rodgers

THE presence of Alan Shearer in the England team has been the subject of debate recently but Wood Park, home of Blackburn Rovers, would be a desolate place without him.

Within three minutes of the start of this FA Cup Premier-ship contest on Saturday, he had placed Stuart Ripley's pass beyond Miklosko. Fourteen minutes later, he forced Mike Newell's header into the roof of the net, not an easy task given the height of the West Ham United goalkeeper.

Shearer completed his hat-trick in the second half when he converted a penalty after

being impeded by Julian Dicks. As Newell, his partner up front, said: "If you build a team around him, you'll have a successful side."

Newell made the scoresheet when he lunged full length to convert another Ripley cross on the half-hour, yet it was a more recent acquisition who engineered the victory. Lars Bohinen has given Blackburn a new outlook and inspired them to score 16 goals in his four home league games for the club. His passing and movement in midfield have more than compensated for the direct approach that had spread through the champions' early-season tactics.

Some West Ham supporters had made their excuses and left after the third goal. But those that remained were stoic

in their support. Conversely, the greater the deficit the more vociferous their chants became.

They deserved more and almost gained it with the introduction of Robbie Slater as a substitute. The former Blackburn midfielder player encouraged a late rally that culminated in a Dicks penalty and a goal for Slater, when he curled a shot round Tim Flowers.

Unfortunately for West Ham, the Blackburn goalkeeper performed his own heroics and superbly tipped over the crossbar two late Dowie efforts in the space of five minutes. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, was concerned by the revival, which threatened to become another embarrassment for his side.

"They threw everybody forward and scared us a little," Harford said.

The Blackburn triumph was a team victory and stifled talk of in-house friction. For the moment, at least.

The European Cup Champions' League fixture with Rosenborg on Wednesday night might seem meaningless, but Harford maintained that it was a chance for players to revive flagging reputations.

"It's an important game because we're at home and we have a bit of pride," he said. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kinnear, C Hendry (sub: P Watterson, 80min), M Berg, G Le Sueur — S Ripley, T Sharnwood, D Baily, L Bohinen — M Newell, M Shearer. WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Bracken, S Potts, M Rapier, J Dicks — M Hughes, J Birtch (sub: D Hutchinson, 65), D Williamson, J Hines (sub: R Slater, 68), A Collie (sub: M Boogers, 70), I Dowie. Referee: K Burge.

Kinkladze's craft is alien to Leeds

Leeds United 0
Manchester City 1

By Ivo Tennant

THERE still exist those English managers who cannot rid themselves of their innate suspicion of imported foreigners. Juninho? "Could be a good player," Joe Kinnear admits grudgingly. Georgiou problems? "Howard Wilkinson said, before adding the inevitable rider: 'But he did not look as if he would kill us.'"

The follow-up comment is usually something along the lines of: "Wait until the snow comes." Around the time when Clyde Best was a new-comer in the old first division, such sentiments were also widespread. Now, they apply not to black footballers, who have long since made their mark, but to any foreign player with lofty skills.

The truth was that Kinkladze, a 22-year-old Georgian who has had to surmount the difficulties caused by his basic English, did indeed kill Leeds United. A further opinion of said managers is that Elland Road is the hardest ground for visiting players to make an impression. Not so on Saturday.

Kinkladze created space, picked out colleagues with unerring accuracy and, above all, played the game at his pace. Here was the stylish and sophisticated midfielder player, appreciated by those numerous Leeds supporters who could recall Johnny Giles. "When we play, Middleton brought next week, the talents of Kinkladze and Juninho will be separated only by a cigarette paper," Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, said. He, understandably, was pumped-up and elated. City

hitherto had not won away from home this season. To gain a victory at Elland Road, and to do so by playing the ball around in a manner they could not have envisaged after Liverpool scored ten goals against them in two matches, was some achievement.

Ball gives thanks to his chairman, City's supporters and his wife, for standing by him. He is indebted to Francis Lee in another sense, too, for when Ball was abroad in the summer, an agent touring a video of the £2 million-rated Kinkladze, then playing for Dynamo Tbilisi, turned up at Molineux Road. Lee watched it and recommended Ball did so on his return.

At half-time, Leeds looked to put more than one marker on Kinkladze, leaving more space for other players. The City goal was a case in point: while two defenders sought to harry Kinkladze out of possession, Lomas was left unattended on the wing and his instant, low cross was headed in by Creaney, the substitute. In five matches, City have conceded just one goal, and that a penalty. They are a young team who will continue to improve.

As for Leeds' foreigners, Yeboah saw too little of the ball and Broolin, who began his home league debut with some fine through passes, was exhausted before the end. He has been brought to Elland Road to overcome the predictability about Leeds' game that, at present, is not sufficient to counter the imagination of the likes of Kinkladze.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): J Lukic — G Hilly, D Welham, R Johnson, A Dango — C Palmer, G McMillan, M Ford (sub: Parnham, 87min), Whelan, 70, B Dwyer, A Yeboah. MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): E Innes — Brightwell, K Curtis, K Symons, R Eggle (sub: G Creaney, 43) — N Summerbell, G Pinnell, S Lomas, G Kinkladze — N Quinn, U Rösler. Referee: P Alcock.

Barker endures five minutes of misery

Queens Park Rangers 1
Middlesbrough 1

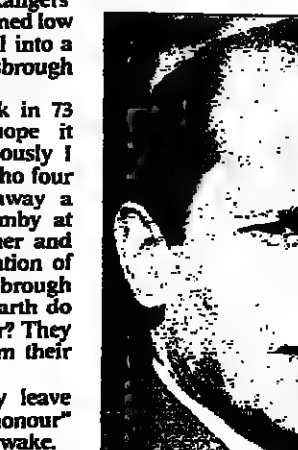
By Alyson Rudd

THERE was a twinkle in Simon Barker's eye and a chuckle in Ray Wilkins's throat as they recalled Queens Park Rangers' fourth-minute penalty. Barker aimed low but swung high, and the ball fell into a cluster of delighted Middlesbrough supporters.

It was Rangers' first spot-kick in 73 Premiership matches. "You hope it comes good on the day — obviously I fluffed my lines," said Barker, who four minutes after his miss gave away a penalty by fouling Stamp. Barnby at least forced a save from Sommer and Morris was loitering in anticipation of the loose ball to put Middlesbrough ahead. All very droll. How on earth do Rangers keep their good humour? They have taken just three points from their last eight Premiership matches.

As the points slip away they leave comments such as "defeat with honour" and "intelligent football" in their wake. Wilkins should have been livid. McDonald equalised with a "did-it-or-didn't

it cross the line?" header, but the home team had more shots on target, more urgency and should have won. Instead of a good-natured "I thought their goal led a charmed life at times," Wilkins should have smashed a few chairs, criticised Barker, glowered menacingly and stormed home in a huff.



Wilkins: too good-natured

Rangers are too nice. Nobody fears them. They can outplay the opposition and all the while the opposition know they can still win. No wonder the gloomy faces all belonged to the Middlesbrough camp on Saturday.

Bryan Robson's team was as ever, impressive at the back but only fleetingly as well oiled further up the field. Juninho looked like a wasp with navigation trouble and it took over an hour before he produced the customary vignette, delicately cushioning a long pass from Cox, then slipping the ball through to Barnby in the penalty area.

Unfortunately, the Brazilian then faded, dropped deep and was substituted.

Juninho is still acclimatising but this did not spoil the afternoon. "I thought it was a smashing game of football to watch if you were an innocent bystander," Viv Anderson, Robson's assistant, said. Juninho is still a little innocent of the ways of the Premiership: more surprisingly, so are Rangers.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — K Roady, A McDonald, S Yates, T Drake — J Sinclair, I Holloway, S Barker, A Impey — K Gullott (sub: D Dwyer, 80min), M Holroyd. MIDDLESBROUGH (5-2-3-1): G Walsh — N Cox, S Vickart, N Pearson, C Liddy, C Morris — P Stamp, J Pollock — N Barnby, Juninho (sub: C Hignett, 70), J Morrison. Referee: P Dutton.

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Newcastle nearly come unstuck

Bemused leaders happy to escape on level terms

Wimbledon 3
Newcastle 3

By Andrew Longmore

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S determination to win the FA Carling Premiership in style was put to the toughest test by the unlikely of challengers at Selhurst Park yesterday. Just six weeks ago, Newcastle had brushed Wimbledon aside 6-1, but, at the end of a cracking return match of six goals, they were happy to emerge breathless and bemused with a point as Wimbledon twice came from behind.

For their nearest pursuers, five points or more adrift, the bitterness of Newcastle's central defence will be a source of comfort, the sight of the fear-some Ferdinand adding two goals to his Premiership tally — now 17 in 16 games — a cause for alarm. But there could be no argument from either faction in the stands.

"Some of the defending was X-rated on both sides," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "But they gambled by playing four up and that takes a lot of bravery."

Determination, tenacity, hard work — these were the qualities that Wimbledon offered up against Newcastle's superior technique. But these are starting to be desperate times for the Premiership's commoners — as a recent story about moving to Dublin would suggest — and, even

without Jones, laid low with flu, their game was once again enthused with the crazed urgency of the underdog.

Wimbledon might even have taken the lead had Ekoku not driven a shot just wide as early as the seventh minute from the excellent Leonhardsen's delicately-flighted cross. The miss proved merely a prelude to a classic Newcastle break.

Beardsley robbed Harford midway in the Wimbledon half. Beardsley broke to the left, Ferdinand down the middle. Beardsley chose his full back who, without changing stride, took the ball on, crossed low and Ferdinand cracked home a left foot shot for his nineteenth goal of the season. The whole operation was accomplished with awesome certainty.

Within ten minutes, Wimbledon were level: within 14, a goal to the good as first. Holdsworth turned and shot home low from 15 yards and then Hislop, enduring one of his more flamboyant afternoons, flapped at a high cross. Goodman returned the ball, Harford's volley was goalbound but brushed Ekoku's knees on the way into the net to give Wimbledon an unlikely lead.

If Peacock and Howey, at the heart of the Newcastle defence, caught Hislop's jitters on a surface not made for sharp U-turns, Wimbledon's defending did not encourage any fancy ideas about sitting on their lead either.

Howey v Holdsworth was a good contest at one end; Pearce (£650,000) v Ferdinand (£16 million) proved as one-sided as the market suggested.

Every time the ball went into the air in the Wimbledon penalty area, the England man was on the end of it. Once, a bullet header was parried brilliantly by Heald, the next time Ginola's pinpoint cross was tucked home with all the fuss of an old fisherman reeling in the day's catch; 2-2 and just half an hour gone.

Ten minutes before half-time, just to show Terry Venables, the England coach, that there is more to his game than scoring goals, Ferdinand turned provider. Released for a gallop down the right, he brushed off Kimble's tackle and pulled a low cross back, which Gillespie touched home under a challenge from Cunningham. Surely now the champions-in-waiting would stretch away from the stragglers?

Not a bit of it. For all Ginola's lazy dribbles down the left and Lee's persistence in midfield, Wimbledon refused to bow the knee, throwing men forward with reckless abandon and crossing fingers in defence. On the hour, Harford leapt with a passable impersonation of Ferdinand to head a Kimble cross firmly towards the roof of the net only for Hislop to make amends for his earlier fumbles with a magnificent flying save. Newcastle, though, did not learn, and ten minutes later, the same piece of choreography had Harford heading across goal for Holdsworth to put Wimbledon level from close range.

Newcastle were thrust back on their heels, unable to find any time or rhythm under the constant harassment of Leonhardsen and Goodman in midfield and Harford, who continued to cause the diminutive Newcastle full backs trouble in the air. Even Ferdinand's head was more prominent defending corners than in attack.

At the final whistle, he hung his head in disbelief. He should have smiled with relief. If this is a preview of Wimbledon's future, Dubliners should welcome them with open arms.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): P. Heald — K. Cunningham, A. Peacock, A. Howey, C. Perry, A. Kimble, J. Goodman, O. Leonardson, R. Ekoku, E. Ekoku (sub: M. Geyse, 43) — D. Holdsworth, M. Harford.

NEWCASTLE (4-4-2): S. Howey — W. Baxton, D. Peacock, S. Hislop, J. Beardsley — K. Gillespie, L. M. Lee, D. Ginola — L. Ferdinand, P. Beardsley.

Referee: G. Ashby.



Austin, left, the Tottenham defender, slides in to challenge Limpin while Fox looks on anxiously at White Hart Lane. Photograph: Dylan Martinez

Tottenham entertain midfield doubt

Tottenham Hotspur 0
Everton 0

By Nicholas Sozeban

FOOTBALL, as Everton know to their cost, has recently been more involved with the law of the land than it would like; but it was good old-fashioned Sod's Law that governed much of this FA Carling Premiership encounter at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Both teams attacked relentlessly yet could not produce a goal. Although Everton played better, Tottenham Hotspur came closer, and, while wingers dominated the game, three of the closest attempts came from a poor back pass, a free kick, and a high ball down the middle.

With Anders Limpar, of

Everton, and Ruel Fox, of Tottenham, indulging in a private competition to see who could create most havoc among defenders, there was a constant flow of crosses into the penalty areas, although no takers for the goalscoring role that Gary Lineker once played for each club.

"Anders shows you flashes of genius," his manager, Joe Royle, said, and, indeed, Limpar was the player of the first half, giving Austin an uncomfortable time on the flank while still finding opportunities to cut inside and unleash right-footed shots.

Before he had got into his stride, however, Fox, provider of most of Tottenham's inspiration, had set up Rosenthal for a shot that was deflected on to the crossbar. The woodwork also rescued the home

side when Amokachi almost profited from Campbell's ill-judged back pass.

After a bafflingly goalless first half, the second was disappointing. Nevertheless, Southall had to be alert to save Mabbitt's dipping volley and

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Everton players twice cleared from the jaws of the goal: first Hinchcliffe kicked away Sheringham's deflected shot after an indirect free kick, then, with only five minutes left, Watson misjudged a long clearance but was relieved to see Jackson prevent Armstrong's touch crossing the line.

Tottenham had had designs on a share of third place in the Premiership. But, as in the FA Cup semi-final last season, Everton spoilt the party if not the match. "As good a 0-0 as you'll see," was Royle's verdict.

"More like a 3-3," the Tottenham manager, Gerry Francis, agreed. "We had a chance to snatch three points whereas perhaps we only deserved one."

Francis also, by implication, acknowledged a lack of creativity in the centre of the Tottenham midfield that he hoped will be improved when Darren Anderton returns from injury. "We're showing that we are fifth best in the Premiership at the moment, and we have to hang in there until Darren comes back — he will add dimensions. It's im-

portant that, when he's back, he's back to stay."

Royle, who for his part has Duncan Ferguson's comeback to look forward to, was more positive about his side's prospects. "We're not too far short. Newcastle [United] are better than the rest, but I think we can chase them."

If the person who pointed out that Everton's next away game is at St James' Park was trying to deflate him, it did not work. "Oh, we like Newcastle," was his reply, and not many Premiership managers would say that.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — D. Austin, C. Chedoke, G. Mabbitt, S. Campbell — R. Fox, J. Dorcott, D. Rosenthal (sub: G. Mabbitt, 78min) — C. Armstrong, E. Sheringham.

EVERTON (4-4-2): M. Southall — M. Jackson, D. Watson, C. Short (sub: A. Hinchcliffe, 45), D. Unsworth — A. Rosenthal, J. Bann, J. Parkinson, A. Limpar — G. Stuart, D. Amokachi.

Referee: S. Dunn.

Chelsea's caution proves successful up to a point

Manchester United 1
Chelsea 1

By Peter Ball

THE Manchester United supporters gave Mark Hughes a standing ovation on Saturday and their team gave him a point. Chelsea extending their outstanding record at Old Trafford to only two defeats in the past 21 visits. Given that record, United might regard the draw as a point won, yet there were other things to worry them as Cole's search for goals again proved fruitless and Cantona's new halo slipped a little.

In April, Chelsea held United to a scoreless, and virtually chanceless, draw that, as much as anything, prevented United retaining the FA Carling Premiership title. On Saturday, they again set out unashamedly to kill the game and afterwards congratulated themselves on their success.

"We set out to get a lot of players into midfield to make it frustrating for them, and we did," Hughes, the captain for the day on an emotional return to his former club, said.

They succeeded up to a point. The first half may go down as the worst at Old Trafford for many a long year. When Lee Sharpe, who had a game he will want to forget, compounded his miserable afternoon by sending Spencer free for Wise to put Chelsea ahead, early in the second half, the jinx seemed to be working again.

But, thereafter, there was only one team likely to emerge victorious. When a team does not leave one forward upfield at corners and still allows the opposition free headers in the penalty box, as did Chelsea, it is hard to acknowledge their defensive tactics as a success.

Despite Chelsea's six-man midfield, playing in two banks to deny United space, Beckham and Cantona produced some breathtak-

ing moments, and Cantona one two-footed lunge that brought his first yellow card since his return. United had enough chances to end any talk of a hoodoo for evermore. Cole, Beckham and Bruce all missing openings either side of Beckham's glorious chip that brought the equaliser.

Bruce saw one effort scrambled off the line by Wise and, culpably, as he admitted, put a free header wide. Beckham shot at Kharine when clear, but inevitably it was Cole's misses that concentrated the mind.

He is unarguably a much more complete player than a year ago, but that was not the aim when he was bought for around £7 million. He has scored only three goals all season. "Only two more than Schmeichel [the United goalkeeper], and from a lot more opportunities," one observer said.

The miss from five yards caught the eye, but a more worrying moment came shortly afterwards when a more difficult opening presented itself. Cole, a year ago, would have hit it without thinking; on Saturday he appeared to freeze,

waiting uncertainly, as Chelsea regrouped before hitting it straight at Myers.

"The only way back for Andy is to go out to try to score," Hughes said. "He is going to have times when he thinks he'll never score again, but he's got to keep taking the positions that he has done throughout his career, and then the hits will come his way."

"He's an out-and-out striker, and for Andy the only food and drink is when he hits the back of the net. When he's not doing that, maybe he gets tense about the other parts of his game and tries too hard, and that's when he has a problem. But he will come through it."

Hughes should know, but doubts linger. Cole was substituted off, as the foreign figure walked off, as the ghosts of Alan Brazil and Gary Birtles could be seen hovering above the penalty area.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Heald — K. Cunningham, A. Peacock, A. Howey, C. Perry, A. Kimble, J. Goodman, O. Leonardson, R. Ekoku, E. Ekoku (sub: M. Geyse, 43) — D. Holdsworth, M. Harford.

CHelsea (4-4-2): S. Howey — W. Baxton, D. Peacock, S. Hislop, J. Beardsley — K. Gillespie, L. M. Lee, D. Ginola — L. Ferdinand, P. Beardsley.

Referee: M. Blackmore.

Lee's return gives Forest Uefa Cup lift

NOTTINGHAM Forest were given an unexpected lift today when Jason Lee, their young forward, was declared fit to compete for a place in the team to face Lyons, of France, in the Uefa Cup tomorrow.

Lee was expected to travel with the squad today, after proving that he had shaken off the effects of a thigh strain.

Forest, flying the lone British flag in European competition this season, have to defend a 1-0 advantage in the second leg of the third-round tie, a lead secured at the City Ground two weeks ago with a goal by Paul McGregor, one of the young players drafted in to the side in Lee's absence.

Frank Clark, the Forest manager, had his hand strengthened further by the return of Steve Chettle, the defender, after serving a one-match suspension.

Darlington, of the Endleigh Insurance League third division, were expected to confirm the appointment of Jim Platt as manager today, after the surprise walk-out by his joint manager, David Hodgson, before the FA Cup second-round match with Rochdale on Saturday, which ended 2-2.

Hodgson said he was unhappy with the reluctance of the board to allow any of the £250,000 realised from the sale of players to be spent on rebuilding the squad. "I am sick of the politics at this club," he said.

Canmy Duncan, the Ayr goalkeeper, was recovering at home yesterday after the intervention of the club physiotherapist, John Kerr, prevented him swallowing his tongue when he sustained concussion in a clash with David Kennedy, of Queen of the South, in a Bell's League first division match on Saturday.

Thom helps Celtic revive memories of former glory

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

There were tough negotiations before Andreas Thom joined Celtic in August. The club's manager, Tommy Burns, still recalls how he was grilled about the kind of schooling his daughter, Janine, might receive and the sort of home into which he and his wife, Kristina, would be taking their baby boy, Sascha-Rene.

Of course, the German international did eventually remember to negotiate a contract worth, according to Celtic's managing director, Fergus McCann, £1.8 million over three years. For Burns, though, the impression that lingered was of a devoted family man. It is an ambiguous reputation for a footballer, and especially a forward, to have.

Attackers are more often associated with disorder, and the best of them ensure that the havoc of their life spills over into the opposition's goalmouth. Thom, a product of the old, methodical East German sporting system, is more placid but, given his irregular scoring, supporters were left trying to stifle the thought that his skills might be an ornament to the team rather than its mainspring.

Now, however, he has begun to claim a place at the very heart of Scottish football's mayhem. On Saturday, Celtic were 2-0 down to Kilmarnock at home, with two minutes of the first half remaining, when Thom burst through on the right and crossed for Peter Grant to head home. Before the interval arrived, the German had claimed the equaliser for himself, taking his time to stroke a shot into the corner of the net even as the crowd were bawling at him to hurry.

In the second half, Pierre van Hooijdonk put Celtic ahead with scarcely any assistance from Thom, but he was not to be excluded from the action for long and was instrumental in the fourth goal, again finished by the Dutchman.

The 4-2 victory had overwhelm-

ingly been of the German's devising. Celtic paid £2.2 million to Bayer Leverkusen for Thom precisely to secure the kind of talent that can have a game at his beck and call.

He was purchased by a club made frantic by frustration after David Ginola and Marc Degryse had both preferred moves to, respectively, Newcastle United and Sheffield Wednesday. Burns, at that point, had never even seen Thom in the flesh but, harried by their own indignant supporters, Celtic could no longer spare the time for qualms.



Thom: guiding influence

A deal was rushed through with Leverkusen even though Burns was aware that the player's form had stubbornly failed to climb above mediocrity in the two previous seasons, which had produced a total of nine goals for him in the Bundesliga. The risk was taken on the basis of the attributes that are always evident in Thom even when he is ineffective.

Hard-bitten professional footballers are not given to swooning over the skills of colleagues but, at Celtic Park, Thom's team-mates cannot help but chatter about the German's two-footed precision, his turn of pace and the intelligent tirelessness that makes him elusive for defenders and readily available to his own midfield.

Thom still has just three goals in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, but his growing influence has increased every index of the side's worth. A year ago, Celtic had 21 points from 16 matches, now they possess 35. Then they had scored only 17 goals, now they have 30.

Celtic's top scorer for the whole of last season was John Collins, with eight. At the moment, he and Van Hooijdonk have nine each. The players, nevertheless, have more than just their former selves to beat, and Rangers, efficient 2-0 winners away to Heart of Midlothian on Saturday, still enjoy a four-point lead.

Even so, Celtic are entitled to feel satisfied with themselves. After all, this was, only recently, a tormented team that drew half of its league matches last season. That record was an accurate account of a side whose standards were as non-descript as the humbler members of the premier division.

Supporters, though, now find that attendance on Saturday is once more a pleasure rather than an obligation, and, for the moment, Celtic can believe they are pursuing Rangers rather than merely trailing behind them.



Cantona's momentum carries him into the crowd at Old Trafford

Ipswich earn point in injury time

Wolves still wait for McGhee and a change of luck

Wolverhampton W 2
Ipswich Town 2

By PETER BALL

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers may be close to appointing a new manager, but they are not much nearer to improving their parlous position in the first division. Yesterday the pre-season promotion favourites threw away two points, the one that they hung on to just lifting them out of the bottom three.

It was a frustrating afternoon all round for the club and their supporters, particularly Jonathan Hayward, the chairman, who waited in vain for permission from Leicester City to approach Mark McGhee, their manager. Martin George, the Leicester chairman, however, left to visit his daughter in Edinburgh without making the phone call. Leicester remain determined to keep McGhee.

Hayward refused to make

any comment yesterday and it looks as if McGhee will now have to decide whether to walk out on Leicester, or honour his contract. An interview in one of yesterday's papers suggested that he is likely to move to Wolves.

He said: "I am certain I am in my rights to go to Wolves as long as they are prepared to pay compensation. Wolves are the last of the sleeping giants waiting to be awoken, and opportunities like this don't come along every day."

With 20,000 turning up on a foul afternoon to watch a team which began the game in the bottom three, McGhee's comparison with Newcastle United does not look far fetched. And, in spite of their position in the table, there is a lot of good material for him to work with, the players refusing to allow the disruption to upset them.

"I asked the players to behave in a professional manner and I thought we did until the 92nd minute," Bobby

Downes, the caretaker manager, said afterwards. The 92nd minute had produced an Ipswich equaliser, a messy goal giving them the draw.

It was less than Wolves deserved, but that has been the story of their season. On this occasion Stowell claimed an own goal and an assist, but he was not the only guilty party as they snatched a draw from the brink of victory.

That has been a familiar story at Molineux, errors at both ends of the pitch undermining a side who otherwise often look the best team in a mediocre division. Yesterday they missed enough chances in the first half to have had the game won by half-time. Instead they trailed after Stowell's flap at a Milton free kick gave the ball to Marshall, who put his side ahead with their only attack of the half.

Bull had missed two glaring chances before the interval, and he missed another soon after half-time, but at last Goodman found the range after he had missed the best opportunity of all in a first half when Wolves' speedy attacks had threatened to over-run the visitors. After the interval, with Ferguson's prompting sending Wolves forward urgently, the goals at last came.

First Andy Thompson and Rankine combined to set up Goodman for a side-footed finish from five yards and then, as Ferguson sent him through, he clipped the ball over the diving Barber, two goals in ten minutes after a wait of 12 games for the striker. That appeared to give Wolves their first league win since October 28, which was no more than they deserved, but as the game entered its closing stages, Ipswich at last began to create some chances.

Inevitably, the Wolves defence cracked at the last. Mowbray was allowed a free header to meet and, although Ferguson cleared off the line, his header struck Stowell and rebounded into the net.

Commenting on the speculation over the possible appointment of McGhee later this week, Downes said: "I would have to have been blind or deaf not to have noticed it, but I have no idea whether I will still be in charge for our match at Luton next Sunday."

"I wouldn't expect the chairman to say anything to me and as yet nothing has happened."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (9-5-2): M. Stowell — D. Richards, S. Law, M. Venus — M. Rankine, M. Adams, N. Emman — Blair, P. Shaw, S. D. Ferguson, A. Thompson — D. Goodman, S. Bull.

IPSWICH (9-5-2): F. Barber — A. Mowbray, S. Stowell, C. Thompson — M. Tappin (sub: G. Usher), S. Bull, M. Stowell (sub: P. Mason, 75), S. Bull, G. Wharmby, N. Thompson — A. Moffat, J. Marshall.

Referee: M. Gray



The airborne Williams, of Plymouth, stops Warden, of Kingstonian, in his tracks yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Littlejohn ends Kingstonian's progress

Kingstonian 1
Plymouth Argyle 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

A FLASH of inspiration five minutes from time by Adrian Littlejohn yesterday extinguished the last flicker of romance from an FA Cup second round that had delivered few of its usual emotional highs for the non-league contingent.

Littlejohn, 25, signed from Sheffield United in a deal that may cost Plymouth up to £200,000, received a pass from the touchline outside the penalty area, swivelled and hooked the ball over his shoulder and high into the net to see off the challenge of Kingstonian, of the Isthmian League premier division.

Kingstonian at least scored a goal, which was more than any non-league side had managed against League opposition on Saturday and had bred the enthusiasm of the 2,961 crowd in the trim, modern Kingsmeadow Stadium that the Surrey club has occupied since 1989.

It too, was a good goal. Eddie Akumoh, a Great Britain student international with a fine turn of speed, crossed from near the corner flag to the far post where Jon Warden, pulling away from the defence, headed the ball against the near post from where it bounced back into the far corner of the net.

Coming on the stroke of half-time, the goal lifted a match in which Plymouth had taken the early advantage, when, after eight minutes, Leadbitter threaded a shot through a gap in a crowded penalty area after Evans had knocked down a long free kick. Kingstonian, with increasing conviction, drove their way back into contention before gaining their equaliser.

For that Neil Warnock, the

Plymouth manager, squarely blamed his forwards. "I told them at half-time that you can't win matches with eight players," he said. "I mean you don't see Ian Rush, at 30 whatever, just standing around up front."

Warnock's words certainly had their effect. Although Brooker, dummying Williams, unleashed a rasping shot, fisted away by Blackwell, Plymouth attacked with re-

newed purpose. Littlejohn saw a half-hut shot hit a post and then a more authentic strike smartly saved by Root.

Yet, after the early excitement and before Littlejohn's shot out of the gloom, the match had been drifting towards a draw. "I think we had some tired legs in the final ten minutes," Billy Smith, the Kingstonian manager said. "We had a bit of cramp out there."

Smith, like Warnock, had taken charge at the start of the season with a mission to banish particularly grim recent times. Kingstonian endured a fraught season to retain their Isthmian division status; Plymouth had not been so lucky, sinking to the Endleigh League third division for the first time in their history.

For all that and their exposure to the perils of away ventures to Dorking, Marlow, Kettering and Slough in recent times, Plymouth have a good record against non-league opposition in the Cup.

Their most distinguished supporter — the man with a shock of white hair, jumpy green coat, hand-knitted black and green scarf and stick who used to lead the Labour Party and was sitting in the stand would say, quick as a flash, that Worcester City in 1978 remain the only non-league club to humble Plymouth.

So perhaps it was never going to be Kingstonian's day. Indeed, it brought to an end, after drawing with Peterborough United and beating Brighton, their modest run of never losing to a League club at Kingsmeadow.

Kingstonian (4-3-3): D. Root — J. Finch, C. Warrington, G. Nobbling, A. Riley — D. Root, A. Finch, C. Warrington (sub: D. Root, 80), J. Warden, E. Akumoh.

Plymouth Argyle (4-4-2): N. Blackwell — M. Patterson, M. Hinchinson, R. Hill, P. Williams — C. Bell (sub: R. McCreesh, 81), G. Clayton (sub: R. Logan, 86), R. Masego, C. Leadbitter (sub: J. Baird, 70) — A. Littlejohn, M. Evans.

Referee: M. Harris

Late goals keep hopes alive



FA CUP

THAT as many as four non-league clubs emerged from Saturday's games to feature in the all-singing and dancing FA Cup third-round draw that BBC is stage-managing tonight, is because Cinderford, Town and Gravesend and Northfleet, and Enfield and Woking drew their matches 1-1 (Walter Gammie writes).

Elsewhere, Endleigh League sides flattened non-league fantasies of fame and fortune. Yet if the Venables-Law ball-juggling act does deliver the winners of replays tomorrow week a Manchester United or Newcastle United, then some ambitions might still be realised.

Perhaps for Cinderford, stranded in the rugby playing outpost of the Forest of Dean, the proceeds would simply buy breathing space in the battle to keep the club afloat in the Beazer Homes League.

Gravesend, however, might be able to start to bring their ground up to scratch for a life in the Vauxhall Conference — just as Woking used the FA Cup run that carried them to a fourth round tie against Everton four seasons ago to launch them out of the Isthmian League.

Shortage of money on the credit side of the ledger prevented Enfield taking up a Conference place this season. So their need is obvious.

Woking have designs on a place in the Football League, and have a new stand rising at their Kingfield ground.

Indeed, the continuing work means that their replay will be switched to Wycombe, where Woking beat Enfield in an FA Trophy semi-final replay two seasons ago.

The continuing wizardry of Olive Walker, 38, but happily signed up last week until 1997, brought Woking their equaliser ten minutes from the end at Southbury Road. Bradley Thomas struck at a similarly opportune time for Cinderford.

Sean Farrell's first half hat-trick swiftly put paid to Bognor Regis, beaten 4-0 at Peterborough, while Diaz and Martinez, the Spaniards, were on the mark as Wigan Athletic scored four without reply in the second half at Barrow. Hittin, the giant-killers of the previous round, were beaten 3-0 by Gillingham, for whom Fortune-West scored twice.

Dominant Jansher sends out warning

JANSHER KHAN completed a working year in Doha on Saturday that ought to send a warning to the world's squash players that he is unlikely to be shifted from his dominant position as the world No 1 in the foreseeable future (Colin McCulligan writes).

The Pakistani's 57-minute 15-9, 17-16 defeat of Rodney Eyles, of Australia, completed his fourth successive Qatar International Championship success. It was also Jansher's tenth leading tournament victory since defeating Eyles, the world No 2, on the same court 12 months ago, and brought his total of victories on the professional circuit to 71 since he first unexpectedly overturned his legendary countryman, Jahangir Khan, at the Hong Kong Open in 1987.

"I have concentrated on improving my shots and my tactics this year," the 26-year-old world champion said after the final in Doha. "I should really have finished the last game for about eight points but I was a bit tired from all the recent competition."

"Now I am going home to Peshawar for at least two months work and training to recover my old fitness."

Eyles is equally certain about what his future programme will be. "I am off to Bombay now to play in the Mahindra Challenge, one tournament that Jansher never enters," he said. "After that, I keep chasing him, and when I catch him, I might just strangle him."

Bully for the new men pushing back prejudices about hockey

Mel Webb finds enlightenment, and a nice slice of quiche, as darkest Chigwell yields a surprising lesson in sporting machismo

The first real disappointment came 24 hours before I even got to the match. No longer, I was told by a chum who continues to play the game, even unto a grey age, do they bully-off at hockey. From that moment on, I thought, it was never going to be quite the same, no matter what happened on the field of play.

Some non-cogniscent of hockey might be as surprised as I was to be told that the match is started these days with a "push-back". So what was wrong with the good, old-fashioned, bully-off, then? At least it sounded appropriately macho and, well, sporting, somehow.

Bullies-off, I thought, would, having hockeyed, launch themselves into door-stop sausage sandwiches and multiple pints of the warm and foaming; pushers-back, on the other hand, might, if feeling particularly daring, try with a half of lager shandy, nibble quiche and sup those funny yogurt things with small pots of raspberry jam attached.

Quite apart from the method used to set the ball in motion, there has always been something about men playing hockey that, to this prejudiced and admittedly distanced eye, has seemed slightly effete.

I was always able to accept — and if this sounds sexist — that is because it probably is — that, for the female of the species, it was an agreeable and harmless way to spend leisure time. But men haring about armed with implements that looked like Stone Age putters, trying to clout what

looked like a white cricket ball into a silly little net past a goalkeeper who looked like a sort of primitive Robocop? No thanks.

In a nutshell, and excepting the jingoistically ecstatic moment when the Great Britain team went poty in Seoul seven years ago and won an Olympic gold medal, I thought men's hockey was slightly soppy, and the new concept of pushing back just added to the prejudice.

Well, I was wrong, and I admit it. Pushers-back are just as capable of spending their sporting lives teetering on the brink of unbridled, ankle-tapping violence as their bully-off ancestors.

I discovered this at the National League match between Old Loughtonians and

Canterbury on Saturday. It was, I confess, infuriatingly interesting.

Let one thing be understood before we go any further. I know nothing of the nuances of hockey, unlike most of those present on a dank and inhospitable day in darkest Chigwell. For them, it was a good match full of skill, won 3-2 by Old Loughtonians. It impinged upon this eye at a much more basic level.

First, there was the pitch. I am aware that grass is no longer the perfect surface on which to play hockey. Why rely on nature when the petrochemical industry can come up with something better? I was, however, not quite prepared for the Old Loughtonians' pitch. It was plastic, heavily impregnated with

sand and coloured the hue of a baby's nappy.

It was, in all probability, perfect for the players. Yet the thought lingered that it was just that bit too perfect, if only because the untalented imperfections of Mother Nature can provide a wonderful escape clause for flaws in technique. When you have just hit a pass that misses its target by a matter of yards, it is a touch difficult to blame a playing surface that owes more to a spirit level than a heavy roller.

Then, and most importantly, there was the power of the game. To this spectator, the intricate stickwork of these skilled practitioners went largely unnoticed. It was all so quick, performed in less than a blink of the eye. But, boy, do they hit that little white pill...

For me, the highlights of a match won narrowly by one of the best teams in the country were the raking passes, hit with little apparent effort yet with so much pace; cuttass blows rather than epee thrusts.

To a total novice in the hockey arts they engendered the same delicious shiver of pleasure as that produced by the sight of the perfectly hit five-iron, the exquisitely stroked cover drive. A vicarious pleasure, admittedly, but no less valid for all that.

Yes, I enjoyed my afternoon at Old Loughtonians: it provided 70 minutes of action at modest cost, and it did not even matter that the grandstand was a block of open-air terracing. I would go back, I think.

A slice of quiche? Yes, please.

Giles hat-trick destroys Hounslow's resistance

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

CALUM GILES scored a hat-trick as Havant defeated Hounslow 6-2, at Chiswick yesterday to qualify for the fifth round of the Hockey Association Cup.

An ankle injury prevented Hounslow's centre-forward Robert Thompson from playing a full part in the game. He was deployed only to strike the short corners, which flowed in thick and fast late on.

Hounslow started well with a goal in the fifth minute by Le

Hurray and held the lead for 20 minutes before Lawson equalised for Havant. A goal by Giles from a short corner and two by Pattison put Havant 4-1 ahead at the interval.

The lead was increased to 5-1 when Giles converted another short corner, with Owen Jones replying for Hounslow. Giles, however, converted a penalty in the 70th minute for his third goal.

Teddington, the holders, Reading, Cannock, Guildford,

East Grinstead, Old Loughtonians and Southgate joined Havant in the fifth round but Southgate were given a fright at Osterley by Indian Gymkhana. Woods scoring with only two minutes to spare for a 4-3 victory. Crunchley converted three short corners for Cannock in their 4-2 win at Surbiton.

The National League went into its winter recess on Saturday with four teams, Cannock, Reading, Southgate and Old Loughtonians, holding joint leadership of the first division with 22 points.

Southgate's two-point advantage at the start of the day disappeared after they were held to a goalless draw at home by Barford Tigers.

Cannock, helped by a 9-1 away win over Indian Gymkhana, moved to the top of the table on goal difference. Crunchley scoring four goals, one from a short corner, to take his total for the season to 20 in nine matches. Edwards chipped in with two goals from a short corner and a penalty stroke.

Mark Hoskin scored three times for Reading in the 5-2 defeat of Bourneville but Old Loughtonians were given a fight at home to Canterbury before they eventually ran out 3-2 winners. Guildford snatched a 3-2 victory over City of Portsmouth put their nine points clear at the top of the second division.

Results, page 32

WHAT IT COSTS

£1.50

(Excl. Surrey to Chigwell and return, 104 miles)

£17.50

Free (included in admission fee)

WHAT IT COSTS

£1.00 Season ticket

£0.70 Two cups of tea

£20.70

Adults

£10.35

Children

£5.17

Family

£25.87

Old guard can benefit from lessons of youth

هكذا من الأصل

BY BRYAN STILES

Telea, left, the Western Samoan wing, surges on despite the attempts of Phillips and Rodber to halt him during the Midlands' victory at Welford Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

BY ALISON KERITIN

RIZLA The first and still the best.

Clarke the inspiration as Britain runs away with bronze

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN, five weeks ago, Ralph Percy became the twelfth Duke of Northumberland after the death of his brother, he said he was dreading the responsibility. On Saturday, on the dual estate, over a testing course next to Alnwick Castle, responsibility for the regeneration of British cross country passed to a team of eager young fustlers.

Led by Andrew Pearson, winning Britain's first individual medal in a men's international cross country championship for seven seasons, the host nation took team bronze in the European championships with a squad which promises to serve for years to come. Only Britain had three in the first six and each of them is under 25.

Pearson, 24, was third; Keith Cullen, 23, was fourth; Jon Brown, 24, was sixth. If this does not draw Britain's better-known distance runners into the cause of taking on the Africans at the world championships in South Africa next March, nothing will. "I hope it will inspire Paul Evans, Eamon Martin, John Nuttall, Rob Denmark, Gary Staines and people like them," Dave Clarke, the team manager, said.

This was Clarke's first championship in charge and he played as much of a part as any medal-winner. He engendered a team spirit not always evident in recent seasons.

Something David Taylor, Britain's fourth and decisive scorer, had said on Friday stuck in the mind. "Dave phoned me on Wednesday and said: 'We have got Andrew, Jon and Keith in great shape, but we need a fourth person up there.' I feel there is a lot of incentive."

A mere telephone call had helped to inspire Taylor to 42nd place, seeing off the French challenge for bronze.

Britain might even have won. John Downes finished 17th and would have been running for Britain, he said, had he not been overlooked for an international track championships vest last year. Out of pique, he opted for Ireland.

Unlike some years ago, when there was always an athlete ready to complain that he should be picked for the world championships without running the trial, Pearson has no such arrogance. It is a pity that the British Athletic Federation's finances are in such a parlous state that it cannot afford to be as helpful.

Clarke and the athletes are doing their bit. It is time for the federation to find some serious money for Britain's distance runners.

Results, page 32



Hand, right, of Sheffield, who scored a hat-trick, disputes possession of the puck with Morgan, of Nottingham, in Saturday's final. Photograph: John Houlihan

Hand applauds vision of excitement

Tony Hand has played in the past. He made the long journeys on the club coach to teams like the Billingham Bombers and Whitley Bay Warriors, where the ice surface was rough and ragged and the puck cannoned off the boards at strange angles, and still he stayed. Even when one of North America's strongest teams, the Edmonton Oilers, offered him the chance to become the first Briton to make it to the NHL, the ice hockey big time, he turned them down.

At the beginning of this season, Hand glimpsed the future. The man who is universally regarded as the best domestic player the modern British game has produced, moved from Murrayfield Racers, in his native Edinburgh, to Sheffield Steelers after 13 seasons in Scotland. On Saturday, in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final between the Steelers and Nottingham Panthers, the future, in all its rock music and razzamatazz, was there for all to see.

The Moose and Gibbet pub opposite the stadium seemed a bit out of place amid all the talk of what might lie ahead, but, that apart, everything fitted the script perfectly. Rising out of the gloom of a foggy South Yorkshire night, the spotlights surrounding the

Sheffield Arena made it look like a spaceship that had fallen to earth, a vast container for something new and exciting.

Inside, supporters from both teams, the fiercest rivals in the British League, mixed happily, munching nachos, hot dogs and fish and chips. There were women and children aplenty, most wearing team shirts autographed by their heroes. When the match started, the hells in the action were enlivened by bursts of rock music, each snatch of guitar prompting its own individual hand jive from the supporters.

After the match, won 5-2 by the Steelers with the help of a Hand hat-trick, the players



Oliver Holt steps into the bright new world of British ice hockey on a gloomy night in Yorkshire

celebrated on the ice for the benefit of the supporters and then came straight into a press conference. Each was the soul of co-operation and articulate with it. Of course, their sport is at the tender age when it needs to court the press but, in public relations terms at least, they put a game like football, almost drowning in its own complacency, to shame.

There were more than 10,000 people in the capacity crowd, a British record for an ice-hockey game and a tribute

to the successful copying of the North American model. In Sheffield, at least, they have got it off-pat, right down to the bugle calls in moments of home team need, the darkness and spotlights when the teams are introduced at the beginning. They played something that sounded like Ennio Morricone before the start, rather than the Gary Glitter ubiquitous in the United States and Canada, but nobody seemed to mind.

The Steelers have lavished

more than a fistful of dollars on their impressive facilities and the assembly of a team that boasts not only Hand, but also Ken Priestley, a centre who, during his years with Pittsburgh Penguins, twice won the most prestigious trophy in the sport, the Stanley Cup. They were formed only four years ago but the Steelers are the reigning Premier League champions, the team at the forefront of the push into a new era embodied by the establishment of a Super League next year to which teams will be admitted primarily on the basis of their financial position.

Hand, a fine ambassador for the sport, is intelligent enough to realise that the

future is not all rosy. The Super League, which does not have a sponsor, is dominated by Canadian-born players either not good enough or too old to make it at home, and he sees little prospect of another Briton being given the chance to develop as he did and get the opportunity of a berth in the NHL.

"There are too many imported players at the moment," he said. "It is very hard for junior players to come through the ranks and that is sad. Teams would rather go out and buy players than bring them through. The Steelers are in that group, too, but it is not anyone's fault. They have got to keep winning and keep the crowds up."

"But Sheffield are leading the way forward for this sport. The Super League is the way to go. I think everyone feels that. The facilities in Sheffield are fantastic and we work as hard now as they do in the NHL."

"The atmosphere here is better than at a lot of NHL games, too. We used to get crowds of about two thousand when I was at Murrayfield and I left for nights like tonight. I have only been here a few months and there has been a lot of pressure on us to win things. This was the first one available. The future looks good."

Steelers power to third trophy success

Sheffield Steelers 5
Nottingham Panthers 2

By NORMAN DE MEQUITA

SHEFFIELD Steelers, with a convincing victory over Nottingham Panthers, added the Benson and Hedges Cup to the premier division and British championship titles they won last spring. There can now be no argument as to the validity of their theme song: *Simply The Best*.

They dominated the final on Saturday

before a 10,136 sell-out crowd in Sheffield Arena and, while some will suggest that playing in front of their home crowd was a distinct advantage, it hardly affected the outcome.

The Nottingham coach, Mike Blaisdell, had made it clear before the final that they needed to score early goals and "take the crowd out of the game". But instead, the Panthers seemed to spend most of the evening in their own defensive zone and, when they did get to the other end, they found Wayne Cowley in unbeatable form in the Sheffield goal.

Another key ingredient in the Steelers'

success was Tony Hand, who scored twice in 90 seconds in the second period, sandwiching a Tommy Plummer goal, to put them 4-0 in front after Nicky Chinn had opened the scoring.

Darren Durdle did get the Panthers on the board early in the third period. Then, with less than two minutes to go, Blaisdell removed his goalkeeper for an extra forward and the play produced a second Nottingham goal, only for Hand to complete his hat-trick by firing into an empty net in the dying seconds.

SCORERS: Sheffield: T Hand (3), N Chinn, T Plummer; Nottingham: D Durdle, M Blaisdell

Glorious mud fires team spirit

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

ONE of the most unforgettable sights in British sport is the start of the English cross country championships — the "National", as it is known to those who follow this unglamorous branch of track and field athletics.

Close on 2,000 runners — some of them internationals, the majority the backbones of their clubs, perhaps only a relative handful making up the number — setting off over nine miles of demanding terrain at an awesome gallop sounds perfect Saturday afternoon television. Year after year, though, it is overlooked.

Instead, what cross country that does reach the small screen is, more often than not, little more than track running on grass. To accommodate cameras and to provide what is regarded as "good" viewing, circuits are restricted in length, few other than the leaders are identified and the camaraderie that exists between competitors, spectators, and even officials on short, winter afternoons is lost.

Considering that most people's introduction to cross country is at school and occurs because "the gym is being used for exams" or "it's too wet to play football (or rugby, or hockey)", and that it is seldom presented as a sport to enjoy, it is difficult to understand why so many youngsters persevere. They do, though, and not just because of the "National", so there must be something else.

A well-established, structured season, with schools and clubs complementing, rather than fighting against each other, helps, and the climax of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, one of the most recent additions to the calendar, took place on Saturday at

Shirebrook Community School in Derbyshire.

For each of four age-groups, intermediate (school years nine and ten) and junior (seven and eight) boys and girls, eight regional races were held on November 11, with the leading 24 schools in each category qualifying for the finals. Necessarily, therefore, many leading individuals were missing, but that did not diminish an enjoyable festival of fiercely competitive sport: mud, mist, hills, and all.

On a day when the emphasis was rightly very much on teams, the North-West stood apart by taking all four team trophies, while on the individual front, three titles fell to pupils from Essex and the fourth provided Daniel Carthy, from Ivybridge School in Devon, with a fifteenth birthday present a day early.

Encouraged at school by Kirk Salmon, who, in his own days as a schoolboy athlete, gave best only to Dave



IN SCHOOLS

Moorcroft, Carthy improved on his second place of last year by kicking on at the crest of the final climb. Although he admitted that he has been running since he was ten, Carthy's modesty was matched only by Salmon's reluctance to claim any credit.

In a competition that began with 720 teams from some 400 schools, reaching the final itself can be classed as success. When you consider that, when Salmon joined the staff at Ivybridge six years ago, athlet-

ics was something that other schools did, and that, even now, the only facility on site is a long jump pit, his achievements are immense.

On the other side of the country, at Southern High School, the girls probably do not know how lucky they are. Cajoled there by Mary Green, who competed in the 1968 Olympics, they are introduced to cross country as a matter of course. "Although they wouldn't like to admit it," Green said, "the two weeks of cross country that they do as part of our curriculum leave them feeling a lot healthier. They can feel the benefit."

DAVE SHOWNON



Gail Scotland, of St Hilda's School, Liverpool, gets a warm welcome from a friend after finishing her race

Male anglers skating on thin ice

Brian Clarke ponders popular theories on the relative abilities of the sexes

I found myself in Stockbridge a few days ago, giving a talk for charity in what many regard as the birthplace of dry fly-fishing as a recognisable sport. The Houghton Club, that tiny band of well-heeled rodders to which the great F.M. Halford and some of his pioneering cronies once belonged, still has its headquarters in the Grosvenor Hotel in the main street.

The River Test, where Halford carried out much of his research on aquatic insects and developed some of the earliest artificial flies to imitate them, still ripples largely unswayed under the bridge there, 100-plus years on. In Stockbridge country, fly-fishing is accompanied in the genes and fly-fishers are thick on the ground.

I have no idea how many women fished in Halford's time, but "if some of the pictures we see of the early Houghton mob are representative, the world then was peopled entirely by dour old gents. For my talk, the old town hall, opposite the Grosvenor, was packed with anglers, among them many women; not women simply there with angling husbands, but women fly-fishers in their own right."

According to the last credible survey, published by the National Rivers Authority at the beginning of the year, 12 per cent of all anglers are women. However, there is simply no way of appreciating quite how many women fish until something like the Stockbridge meeting occurs.

When women anglers do get together, they quite like to have fun and so, I suppose, it was inevitable that one, in a red cardigan, asked, after the meeting: "Do women make better anglers than men?" A few males who overheard

pressed close, as wide-eyed as hares, perhaps sensing blood.

In truth, the question has been asked since Georgina Ballantyne took what was still the record salmon, in 1992. It has been repeated whenever women fishers gather, whenever any woman catches a lot of fish or a great fish.

One suggestion is that women catch a lot of great cock salmon because the male fish in some way detect the pheromones being given out by the woman behind the rod.

I have never taken this theory too seriously, in part because I am not prepared to ponder the questions raised about the hen fish which these women catch, in part because every time I try to imagine a woman exuding pheromones everywhere, the image is supplanted by that Thurber car-

toon showing electricity seeping out of a light socket and leaking all over a room. Then my concentration goes.

For all that, I have encountered angling instructors who say that women, in the main, learn more quickly than men because they listen more closely. Women, these professionals say, have less need to show how they can cast to the antipodes before they can keep their back-casts off the ground.

Some people feel that an essential difference between men and women is that women are more patient with a pool or a fish, and quite often will bring a fish up through sheer persistence when a man would have passed by. One male crowder-in at Stockbridge put it another way, but only once the red-

cardigan lady had moved on. "It's not that they are more patient, it's that they are too unimaginative to see alternative possibilities," was how he saw it.

Well, many experienced fly-fishers know that, provided the casting is delicate and the fish is not alarmed, a salmon will often tolerate repeated casting and pop out of the blue. Hugh Falkus wrote about this in 1984. G.M.L. La Branche, the American writer, believed the same to be true of trout in fast water, and said as much as long ago as 1914. So, perhaps, temperamentally, women are onto something here.

There is, of course, another possibility. It is a somewhat uncharitable suggestion, one raised by another in that huddle of brave males once Stockbridge Woman had moved on. He said that the reason that some women were more successful than men was that competent women, along with less competent women, always got to fish the best places: if they fished alone, they took the best places; if they fished with men, then the males deferred and offered them the best places. How, he asked, could a competent woman fish, forever on the hot-spots, fail to do better than a competent man fishing the second-best places?

The men who had been as wide-eyed as hares before Stockbridge Woman, nodded and smiled, and suddenly looked a lot better.

But I don't know. This is winter and the season of thin ice. Stockbridge Man might have said that, stern old Halford might have said that, but I couldn't possibly.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month



A woman angler displays typical concentration while fishing the River Test in Hampshire

Kabaddi may look like tag for adults, but Guy Walters finds you have to be fighting fit to last the distance

Playing the field with raiders of a lost art

Anyone who has prematurely turned in for the night after a night of Italian football on Channel 4 might have noticed some Indians chasing each other round a sandpit. The more observant will know this to be just kabaddi, but most will dismiss it as another ethnic sport and realise that there is still time to make a cuppa before AC Milan come on. This is a pity, because kabaddi is a superb game, and it is as popular in India as football is over here.

Nearly 3,000 people play kabaddi regularly in this country, and another 5,000 play occasionally as a recreational activity. Most are from the Asian community, but the National Kabaddi Association wants to widen its appeal. "The game can be played by anybody, regardless of sex, race or creed," says Mahdood Chishu, the NKA's development officer, although one does have to be fairly fit — the same level that is required to keep one on a rugby pitch for an hour and a half.



rectangular is a tighter and more tactical game. Circular kabaddi is played by two teams of 14 players, six of whom are raiders, five defenders and three substitutes.

The pitch, which is 61 metres in diameter, is divided in half, and teams take it in turns to send a raider into the opponents' half to touch a defender. The raider then has 30 seconds to touch a defender and dash back into his own half without being tackled by the defender he has touched. If he succeeds, then his team scores a point. If he is caught and unable to return within 30 seconds, then the defending team scores a point. The game lasts for 40 minutes; the team with the most points wins.

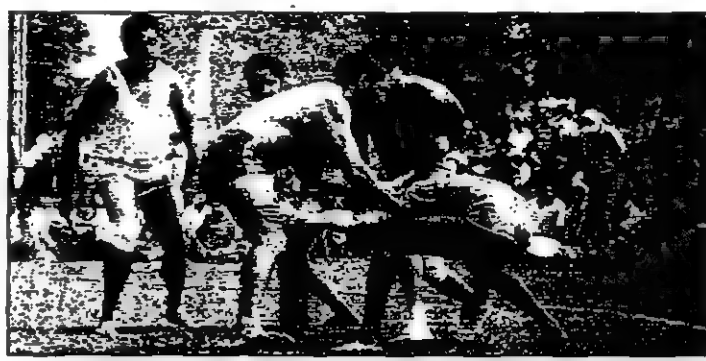
Rectangular kabaddi is more suitable for indoors with its dimensions of 10 by 13 metres. Gameplay is similar to circular kabaddi, although teams consist of 12 players, with seven taking the field at any one time, and five substitutes. The raider has to chant "kabaddi" to prove that he is holding his breath. He then has to touch as many defenders as possible, although any number of defenders are allowed to intercept him on his way back to his half. If the defending team successfully holds a raider until he loses his chant, they win a point and the raider has to leave the field. If the raider makes it back, all those defenders



Facing the enemy: you have to be nimble to play the Asian game of kabaddi, which has its roots in battle strategies — attacking, defending and capturing opponents

he has touched or has forced out of bounds have to leave. The cliché "a minute to learn and a lifetime to master" sticks well on kabaddi. I tried both versions in Birmingham and decided that a shallow-end approach would be suitable, which meant starting as a defender. Defenders are allowed to link hands — this stops them from becoming a disparate mess and gives the raider a more tempting target. The raiders were fast and as soon as I had been touched, my opponent had already disappeared.

A few rounds later, I was beginning to get quicker, but not stronger — most of my opponents seemed to be more than adept at releasing themselves from my somewhat feeble holds. I was shown the best form of hold — it looked like something Joe Orton might have practised on a Moroccan beach. Eventually, feeling confident enough to try raiding, I charged into the opponents' half, bouncing up and down on the balls of my feet, ducking and diving, dummyming and feinting. The defenders looked fairly amused and



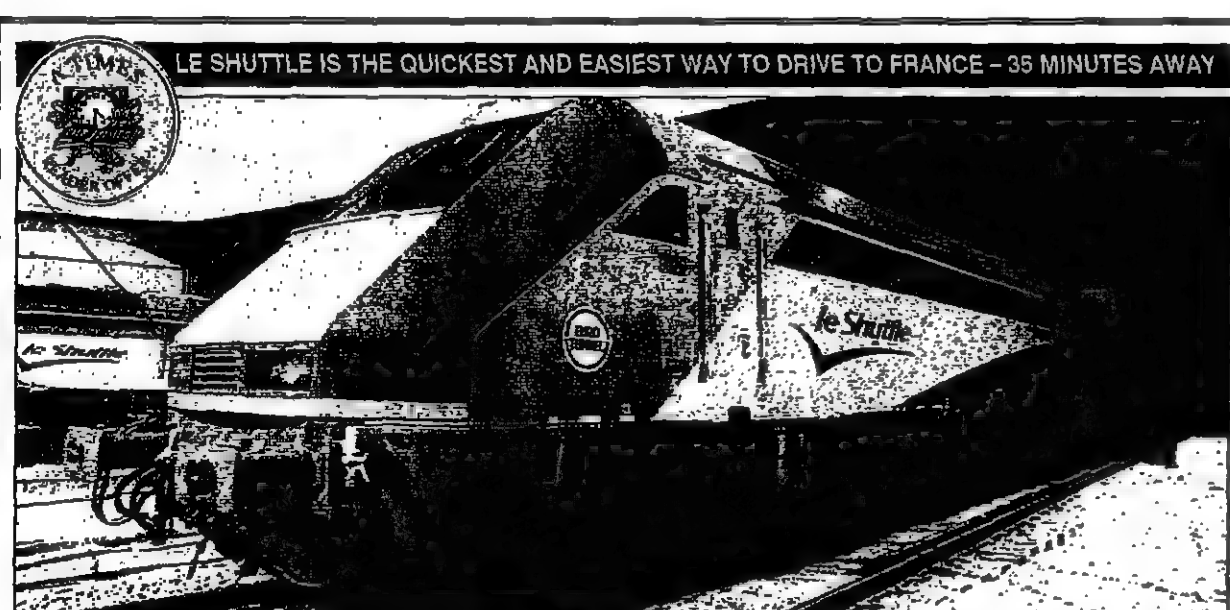
No holds barred: players have to be quick to avoid being tackled

unconcerned. As soon as I touched one, I attempted to dash back, but to no avail. The defender pinned me to the floor before you could say "the West Bengal Panthers". I hadn't expected the game to be quite so violent, I thought after

examining my bloodied knee. I preferred the rectangular game — the distances are shorter and the chanting of "kabaddi" is, yes, highly amusing. The smaller court involves less running, which is a relief to the breathless raider. However, it can be just as violent, something that was rumoured to me as I was thrown to the floor after another unsuccessful raid. Refusing to be beaten, and on my final raid, I went all out in my attempt to be nimble and quick. It worked, but as I hurried back after a successful sortie, I found myself lifted off the floor and deposited in a miserable heap of torn shirt and lacerated dignity. Still, it hasn't deterred me, for I was well aware that my opponents were old hands at such manoeuvres.

The only way in which kabaddi will make its way from a marginal activity to a recognised sport is to have a codification — which is one of the aims of the NKA. Its chairman, Richard Callcott, a previous head of the Volleyball Association, is promoting the game to schools. Because little space and no equipment is required, kabaddi is a more economical alternative to, say, cricket. However, the sport will only be a success if people start to play on a more informal basis — akin to having a kick-around in the park. So the next time you see a bunch of people playing a regimented form of tag while chanting some Indian mantra, you'll know you've been kabaddied.

For further rules and information, contact the Secretary of the National Kabaddi Association: Parminder Dhali, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 328, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B69 3JG



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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

End-plays in which you first eliminate the side suits by ruffing are easy to carry out. A more difficult type is one in which you have to remove the defender's spare cards by running a long suit. They are called "squeeze end-plays". This is a good example:

Dealer West	North-South game	Rubber bridge
♠ AK72 ♥ AK755 ♦ Q8764	♠ QJ1055 ♥ KJ1063 ♦ N ♣ W E S	♠ 1054 ♥ J873 ♦ KJ1092 ♣ 2

Contract: Five Hearts by South. Lead: Ace of Diamonds

After two passes, East opened a frisky Three Diamonds and South overcalled Four Hearts. West bid Five Diamonds and, as North, I bid Five Hearts; at any other vulnerability I would have doubled Five Diamonds. South did not really have his Four Heart bid.

West led the ace of diamonds on which East played the two. Better is the nine — a diamond continuation kills the contract. West took the two as a suit preference signal and switched to a club at trick two.

One possible line of play was to try to ruff two diamonds and hope that either three rounds of clubs stood up or that the hearts came in without loss. The declarer (David Price) wasn't hopeful of this and he judged

well to win the club with the ace. He then played off all the hearts (picking up East's jack).

In the four-card ending, South held the king of spades, queen and eight of diamonds and nine of clubs; dummy was down to the queen of spades and king, jack and ten of clubs.

To guard the clubs West had to come down to the ace of spades and queen, eight and seven of clubs — he had been squeezed out of his small diamonds. Now Price played a club to the jack and, when East showed out, exited with a spade. West had to win and give dummy the last two tricks.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GYROVAGUE
a. A rocket director
b. A wandering monk
c. A random format

COMPUTATION
a. Algebraic trigonometry
b. Polite behaviour
c. A drinking party

UNNUN
a. To defrock a nun
b. A variable indeterminate
c. An Amerindian shaman

BIGGIN
a. A Battle of Britain veteran
b. A type of old English apple
c. A coffee pot

Answers on page 39

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

McShane's challenge

Britain's top chess prodigy, 11-year old Luke McShane, today challenges the world champion, Garry Kasparov in a simultaneous display on the Internet. Kasparov, playing from Munich, will face ten opponents via the Internet situated around the world. Luke McShane will be playing his moves against the champion from his headmaster's study at Westminster School, London, where he is studying. The game starts at 4pm this afternoon and can be followed live on the Intel World Wide Web site, <http://www.intel.com>.

Prodigy loses

The world's youngest ever grandmaster, Peter Leko, from Hungary, fared badly in the following game from the Belgrade tournament. His opponent, the Belarussian grandmaster Boris Gelfand, defended carefully against Leko's attack and finally over to the counter-offensive against White's king.

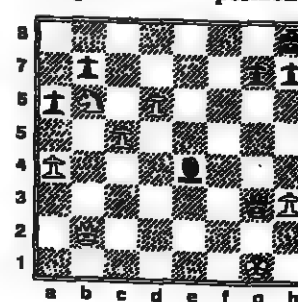
White: Peter Leko
Black: Boris Gelfand
Belgrade November 1995

Sicilian Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	a6
6 f4	e5
7 Nc3	Nbd7
8 Bc4	Be7
9 Bc3	O-O
10 O-O	exf4
11 Bxf4	Qb6+
12 Nh1	Qxb2

13 Nd5	Nxd5
14 exd5	Nx5
15 Qa2	Nd3
16 Qa3	Qb4
17 Bg5	Bg6
18 Ng5	Qh4
19 Ne4	Rd8
20 Qc3	Bc8
21 Nd6	Qb6
22 Nc4	Bd7
23 Nb6	f4
24 Qb3	Rab8
25 Ra4	Bg4
26 N3	Bh5
27 Q4	f5
28 c5	Ra8
29 d6+	Kf8
30 Rxe8+	Rxe8
31 g3	Qh4
32 f4	Re1
33 Re1	Qe1+
34 Kg2	Bg6
35 Bc5	Bh5
36 Qc2	Ba4+
37 Kh2	Qh1+
38 Kg3	Qf3+
39 Kh2	Qf4+
40 Kg1	Qg3+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



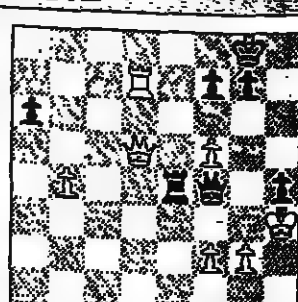
The leading scores, out of 11, at Belgrade were: Boris Gelfand (Belorussia) and Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) 8 points; Alexei Shirov (Latvia) 6.5; Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) 6; Michael Adams, of Great Britain, finished with 5.5.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Tarjan — Karpov, Skopje 1976. In today's puzzle, we see then world champion Anatoly Karpov tightening the noose around his opponent's exposed king. Can you spot Black's winning continuation?



Solution on page 39

هكذا من الأصل

As the Charter Mark Awards celebrate their fourth year, Edward Fennell introduces a report on the winners and losers

The Charter finds its teeth

After three years of solid but low-key achievement, the annual Charter Mark Awards have suddenly caught fire as a focus of controversy and recrimination.

A couple of weeks ago, British Gas announced that it was withdrawing from the scheme on the grounds that it was no longer appropriate for its new structure. Insiders, however, said that the company jumped before it was pushed. Then, just a few days later, news leaked out that no Charter Marks were being renewed for any of the water companies.

The fact that so much acrimony had entered into these public awards was evidence that they had come to mean something valuable. Reputations have been injured and complacency has been shaken. Now, in its fourth year, the Charter Mark initiative has matured. There are losers as well as winners. And the Judging Panel, led by Lord Blyth, has shown that it has teeth and is not afraid to use them to tear at the reputation of the complacent.

So as this year's winners gather today at Westminster for the awards ceremony, they



can be satisfied that their achievements are well deserved. It is the Cinderellas who are going to the ball, not the Ugly Sisters. As you scan the names for award winners it is the little organisations which stand out, such as Greenwich Leisure Services, a worker-owned co-operative, the Preston Disabling Services Centre, Swale Borough Council Cleansing Services Unit, and the Walsall Arboretum.

Their stories reflect real improvement and provision of quality services at the local level. The Charter Mark gives them an opportunity to achieve recognition on the national stage, but tomorrow they will go back to the unglamorous but essential job of serving their communities. The reason why Charter

Mark has hit the headlines, however, stems from the determination of the judges, who make the recommendations to the Prime Minister for the awards, to give real credibility to the mark.

Charter Marks are given to public sector organisations and regulated private utilities which have both reached well-defined standards of public service and impressed the judges by the quality of their performance. The catch is that Charter Marks are awarded for three years and holders must then apply to be reassessed. To be successful on the reassessment it is not enough to have maintained the previous standard. Further progress is required. So a number of organisations — including, ironically, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, which is hosting this year's event — will not be collecting awards.

In the case of the water companies some were rejected entirely, others were put on hold for a year. These unpopular decisions reflected a determination by the judges that Charter Mark should be regarded as a precious award. Drop your standards and it will be taken away from you.

Shape up
mark, B
Charter snub
for water
companies



Lord Blyth



Codric Brown



Lady Wilcox

British Gas drops
Charter Mark as
complaints increase

Making headlines: Codric Brown of British Gas, which pulled out of the Awards; and two of the judges who are determined to give the Charter Mark credibility

Why it pays to listen

The British are said to be a nation of professional complainers. One of the aims of the Charter movement is to encourage them to complain more professionally. A key criterion for Charter Mark success is devoted to "putting things right" and aspirant Charter Mark holders must show that they operate effective complaints procedures.

Mike Hancock, a former MP and now leader of Hampshire County Council, is a late convert to the Charter Mark movement and still wants the initiative to have much sharper teeth. But his authority won an award this year and Mr Hancock regards the complaints dimension as being potentially the most valuable part of the whole framework. "Too often users of public services are unhappy about

the way they are treated but do not do anything about it — perhaps because they think it is a waste of time," he says. "If the Charter Mark movement is helping to encourage more effective complaints and encouraging local authorities to be more responsive then I think it is worthwhile."

Hampshire has been active in setting up systems to make it easier for its residents to complain. An international conference on disability rights recently gave pride of place to the positive policy operated by the county to encourage local people to complain about the services they received.

Probably the person on the Charter Mark Judging Panel who is most tuned into the importance of complaints procedures is Lady Wilcox, who, among many other activities, runs the National Consumer

Council. In approaching public services her philosophy is straightforward. "Make the consumer sovereign," she says.

Her view is that there have been marked improvements in many aspects of the public sector services and that this is due not just to better management and better training but also because there is a greater awareness of the importance of the "customer."

One likely looking Charter Mark winner this year was failed because when the judges visited some typical offices they were disappointed at the way the public were treated. The systems were right but the staff attitudes on the front line were still adrift.

This year's list of Charter Mark winners differs from its predecessors. Whereas big public utilities used to predominate, now the small units in local government, in the education service and in the NHS have come up trumps.

A typical example is the success of the City of Liverpool's Trading Standards Services. With an eye to the dramatic, the service has already been featured on television and has masterminded the first nationwide crackdown on dealers in uncensored videos, investigated football ticket touts, fought underage cigarette and alcohol sales, and contributed to the withdrawal of a teenage chafin.

Peter Mawdsley, who heads the service, says customer satisfaction — around 90 per cent — showed what could be done with good management and a clear customer focus.

Another success for local government lay in Greenwich, where two awards were won by the Homeless Services Department and Leisure Services, which are both characterised by down-to-earth management accompanied by high aspirations and determination to succeed.

Panel members also believe education has one of the most positive stories to tell. A rarity among early Charter Mark winners, schools are now well-represented. Lady Perry, the president of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, took a particular interest in these entries: "The number of winners from education this year reflects the kind of improvements we are seeing in examination successes and shows that there are now many schools deliver-

ing high quality education." Health panel member Angela Heylin, the chief executive of consultancy Charles Barker, said successful NHS reforms had resulted in a tremendous release of energy and imagination. By devolving greater power to people at the front line to run their own local services, there was the possibility of a much more patient-oriented service.

Also striking in the list of winners is the number of small Benefits Agencies. The tendency within Charter Mark now is to recognise service-delivery at the most local level.

An exception is London Electricity. Not only has it achieved a good record on its complaints but, as it proudly boasts, it has not, since January 1994, disconnected a single residential customer in debt.

Another unusual winner is the legalisation office in the Foreign Office. This is the FCO's only public office in the UK and its staff help British companies and individuals get established in new markets. Despite difficult times recently, the Prison Service still has a couple of establishments on this year's list.

Charter Mark will increasingly become a standard for the many rather than the preserve of the few. It will also be the case that while a service may be going through a rough patch, it will still be possible for individual units to continue to deliver to high standards — or to escape their history.

Pride of place must probably go to the Passport Office for re-emerging as a sleek and efficient organisation which now issues passports in time for this year's holiday, not next's.

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- Finance Revenue and Benefits
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Out of sight but not out of mind

Lucy Hodges on a college where blindness is no barrier to study

Kate Harrison is a resilient girl studying four A levels in maths, further maths, physics and psychology at Winstanley sixth-form college outside Wigan. What is unusual about her is that she is blind, and has been since birth. "She is a determined student who makes no concessions to her disability and involves herself fully in the life of the college," says her principal, Dennis Lavelle. His college has won a Charter Mark for the service it provides to its 1,300 students, including 15-year-old Kate. Finding that no textbooks were available in Braille at the level and in the subjects she was studying, it set about translating them for her with a £12,000 grant from the Further Education Funding Council, and with the help of the Wigan Service for the Visually Impaired. The college is also notable for its up-and-down appraisal system, whereby teachers assess students and students rate teachers. Students are given questionnaires to fill in three times during their studies at the college, in which they give a score to the service provided. They are asked to rate the guidance service, the teaching and how homework is handled. "What has made it acceptable is that students give the teachers very high grades," says Mr Lavelle, who is not bashful about extolling his college's virtues. In the Further Education Funding Council's evaluations, Winstanley comes out top for teaching. Two city technology colleges have won awards this year. One is Dixons City Technology College in Bradford, West Yorkshire, set up five years ago with funding from the Dixons electrical chain. This college has set up innovative schemes with Marks & Spencer and Dixons to give their management trainees real-life problems to solve. In return, the college receives the help of people being trained by some of Britain's biggest companies. In the case of Marks & Spencer, the college wanted help in evaluating its induction programme for teachers. "We wanted somebody with



Braille textbooks help blind A-level pupil Kate Harrison

an outside perspective to tell us how successful our induction scheme was and whether we could improve it," says college principal John Lewis. "We thought that if the agency was a company with a renowned reputation for customer service, we could not get much better." In the event, M&S trainees were impressed by the staff induction but suggested ways in which it could be fine-tuned, according to Mr Lewis. There are 15 city technology colleges, established under a Conservative government initiative to boost education in the inner cities and emphasise technology through close links with companies. Another Charter Mark winner is Thomas Telford school, a city technology college in Shropshire, which is notable for putting its curriculum on to a computer network. The school, which has more than 1,000 pupils and opened five years ago, began to put its curriculum on computer three years ago. It was a mammoth undertaking because so much detail had to be input - there are 12 modules planned over a 40-week year. Today students can switch on their computers, press a button and find out where they are in a given course, and what the next task is. "For the particularly keen student this is useful," says deputy head Mike Douch. "High fliers might be held back by the teacher needing to work at a slower pace with the rest of the class, but with this system they can move along." Thomas Telford school also has a television network which

enables all classes to see a recorded broadcast from the head or one of the deputies on screen each week. "It is like an assembly but hopefully more lively," says Mr Douch.

How about this for soothing the nerves? You sit in a relaxed position, listening to hypnotic, rhythmical music while sniffing lavender aroma and gazing at clouds projected onto the wall, Lucy Hodges writes. That is an alternative therapy being offered to elderly patients with dementia or other mental health problems in community homes in Dorset. The great thing is that it works, according to Lesley Ann Waring, head occupational therapist at Dorset HealthCare NHS Trust. "We found it helped agitated and aggressive people become relaxed," she explains. The introduction of the therapy, called "Snoezelen", which originated in Holland, has helped to win Dorset HealthCare a Charter Mark. Patients sit in a specially designed room containing a "multisensory" environment which includes music and scents, fibre-optic lights, a mirror ball which projects light on to the walls, and a tube which shoots out bubbles. Use of the therapy is supported by research carried out in Dorset. Health workers found that elderly patients who were agitated and aggressive or completely unresponsive in the long-stay wards, became more engaged with the world after a spell in the Snoezelen room. "We feel we are giving them some quality of life," says Mrs Waring. Another winner, the Royal

Clean bill for health

Sight, sound and smell therapy is among the fresh approaches being taken to extend NHS efficiency



Dorset's use of the Dutch Snoezelen therapy has contributed to its Charter Mark

Marsden NHS Trust, is improving patients' lives through the telephone clinic it uses as an alternative to the conventional outpatient clinic. Instead of hanging around in the waiting room to see a nurse,

patients simply sit by the telephone at home. It is being used for patients who are being treated for brain tumours. While they don't need to see a doctor, they do need support, which can be



provided on the telephone. The Marsden is also introducing a "family history of ovarian cancer clinic" for patients who may be at risk of the disease. There is a small incidence of ovarian cancer

associated with genetic abnormalities, and the clinic aims to alert the families concerned and inform them of the need for screening. There is also a new service for children who have cancer, and their families. In recognition of the importance of these children being properly cared for in their communities, the Marsden is setting up a paediatric community liaison service to give information and advice to the children's GPs, schools and any other local services involved. "It will provide a link between ourselves and the primary or secondary care team," says Alastair Whittington, director of marketing and contracting at the hospital. The above innovations are good for the patient, but they also improve efficiency. The same goes for the reorganisation undertaken by the Greater Manchester Ambulance Service, another winner. Finding that its ambulances were lying idle because of the few calls received late at night, the service changed shift patterns to have more staff on duty during the day and fewer at night. "Demand has changed over the last few years so we had to rethink our approach," says Patrick Gormley, the service's general manager. As well as rejigging shift patterns the service is now looking at whether to have vehicles serviced outside normal working hours.

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The people's mark of approval.

Police lend an ear to the victims



A woman police officer from the Devon and Cornwall force counsels a victim

Important changes are taking place in policing, if this year's Charter Mark is a guide. Increasingly police forces are thinking about the victims of crime.

Devon and Cornwall police, for example, has produced a victim information handbook, thought to be the first of its kind, which is entirely paid for by advertising. It gives police officers' names, the reference number of the victim's case, what should be done for an insurance claim, and telephone numbers of people who will help.

The handbook is a small part of what Devon and Cornwall is doing for victims. Two years ago the force appointed a civilian, Janet Redshaw, as performance and quality manager. All victims' names are referred to her, and she asks them whether they were given what they needed by police officers.

Under the force's charter, policemen have to provide key details such as the name and telephone number of the investigating officer, how the investigation will be handled and how they can go about claim-

Lucy Hodges on a new initiative to help the public

ing compensation. All details from victims are fed into a database. "That information goes back to the divisional commanders," said Ms Redshaw. "They can see how well their division is carrying out the charter."

Another Charter Mark winner, Central Scotland, the second smallest force in Scotland, is equally committed to helping victims. Its new strategy dates to 1991, when the crime rate was soaring but money was short. "We told people they also had a responsibility to bring the crime rate down," explained Chief Inspector Colin Mather.

The police went to local authorities and said it wanted to be involved in planning safer communities. "We actually became involved in planning with the schools, social services and women's organ-

isations," said Chief Inspector Mather. "We employ a woman full-time who is wholly engaged in domestic violence, drawing up strategies so we can get to the victims before it is too late."

Today the force can boast a 10 per cent reduction in reported crime and a 58 per cent detection rate. As an experiment it has set up a crime management unit to receive reports of crime and decide how crimes should be handled. In the past a minor crime would lead to visits by three officers — a regular policeman, a detective and a scenes of crime officer. Often visits by all three were unnecessary. "It was inefficient," said Mather.

Kent is another force which works closely with local people, and has won a Charter Mark for the second time. It turned Special Constables into parish constables to increase the number of bobbies on the beat. And more than 60 volunteers have been recruited in Dyfed. Powys, to help to run small community police stations, releasing trained police for other duties at no extra cost.

THE TARGETS THAT MUST BE MET

THE AWARD OF a Charter Mark depends largely on how well the organisation measures up against a series of nine, fairly rigorous, criteria.

Even organisations which are not successful — or decide, on second thoughts, not to enter — say that the Charter Mark criteria provide a toolkit for planning and evaluating services.

Candidates for Charter Marks must:

- Set, monitor and publish standards for the services that users can reasonably expect, and publish performance results.
- Make full information readily available about how

public services are run, their costs and performance.

- Provide choice wherever practicable and consult with service users.
- Ensure that services are provided courteously.
- Provide well-publicised and easy-to-use complaints procedures.
- Operate effective and economic public services.
- Secure research-proven user-satisfaction.
- Have introduced demonstrable improvements in service quality in the previous two years.
- Be planning to introduce at least one enhancement to services with no additional costs to taxpayer or user.

Exporting a war against red tape

Customer comes first philosophy is rapidly spreading worldwide

As last week's Budget statement made clear, no one cries when bureaucrats are cut back. The public and politicians worldwide share an innate suspicion that bureaucracy bloats by nature and must be ruthlessly and regularly pruned.

Public services are good, goes the received wisdom, but those who administer them must be watched carefully.

The spread of this message has created a high level of interest in the charter phenomenon from overseas, as international visitors descend on the Cabinet Office's Charter Unit to find out more about how the British do it.

As the September report on the Citizen's Charter commented: "France, the United States, Belgium and Australia have all undertaken initiatives to improve efficiency in much the same way as the charter."

But while the UK may have got there first, it does not follow that we still lead the field. The public reform agenda is moving faster in some

other places," says consultant Diana Goldsworthy, who works on charter initiatives overseas.

Those close to the charter in the UK feel there is still a lot of life left in the initiative. But according to Peadar Thomson of Coopers & Lybrand, its focus has shifted.

"Initially the priority was to influence the big service providers. Current strategy, however, is concerned with enabling local organisations and local people to take up the charter principles."

Ms Thomson claims the charter process changes officials' perceptions of customer needs, an aim echoed in the name of a current US programme entitled Putting Customers First — Standards for Serving the American People. Published one year ago, Putting Customers First has much in common with Charter Mark. "One reason government must begin treating people the way top businesses treat their customers is to restore faith in our system of government," the US report says. "The truth is, most Americans don't trust government to do the right thing."

UK government publications are not as blunt as this. But the message is much the same. "Agencies are changing ... to focus on the things customers say are important," says the US publication.

That is not too different from the British version. But it may be too much to hope for similar rapid progress in eastern and central Europe, where old-style deference to the politburo ideal persists despite keen interest in changing government attitudes.

EDWARD FENNELL

Using yew technology



Chris Eubank and friend clip a yew

To most people, yew trees are good material for topiary or decorating churchyards. To Brighton borough council they represent another opportunity for recycling, Lucy Hodges writes.

It might seem eccentric to recycle clippings of one-year-old yews, and the East Sussex town has certainly had fun with its Yew Bank campaign, launched last year by the boxer Chris Eubank. But behind the jokes lies a serious rationale: a drugs company is extracting a substance from the yew to help develop anti-cancer drugs, and the imaginative scheme has helped win Brighton's waste reduction and recycling service a Charter Mark.

The council launched the scheme after it was approached by an agent for pharmaceutical company Rhone-Poulenc Rorer.

"We had run Christmas tree recycling," says Susan Strong, the council's waste reduction and recycling officer, "so we thought we could run yew tree recycling on the same lines."

It turned out they could. Brighton residents were asked to put their yew clippings in sacks provided by the council for collection, and 600 kilos was collected last year.

Brighton has also been trying to persuade people to buy recycled products by giving work to a local artist who

turns empty green glass bottles into glass bricks, to be used in a stylish refurbishment of the seafront.

Other local authority winners of this year's awards are showing similar sensitivity to local suggestions and needs, and one noticeable trend is the use of state-of-the-art information technology, particularly the CD Rom. Another winner, the library service in the South London borough of Southwark, is renting out personal computers at £1 an hour. Residents can book the computers and use them in the library, where staff provide

word processing programs and support. For £3 an hour, residents will soon be able to surf the Internet, which Southwark libraries marketing manager Dominic Bean describes as "a very important source of information".

Southwark has also been keen to develop new technology for children, particularly CD roms, and is establishing GCSE collections in its libraries where children may go for books and other materials. Homework centres, run by the borough's education service in libraries, will open shortly for children who need help with homework after school and on Saturdays.

One characteristic of the innovative work being done by local councils is that it need not cost much. The emphasis is on economic use of resources.

Another winner, the environmental health department of Braintree district council in Essex, has set up a mediation service to resolve noisy neighbour disputes without resorting to the law. "We spent a lot of time trying to intervene in such cases without much success," says Dennis Powers, director of environmental services.

The beauty of the scheme is that quarrelling neighbours choose their mediators from a list provided, and the council can remain above the fray.

Hospital wins at cards

When Stuart Butcher, 73, was rushed to Queen's Park Hospital in Blackburn earlier this year with a serious heart condition, his wife was distraught, Lucy Hodges writes.

"We had given her information about visiting times and told her to call when she needed," explained Mrs Anne Asher, nurse manager for the Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribbles Valley NHS trust.

During his stay, Mr Butcher, a retired Post Office engineer from Blackburn, had a pacemaker fitted.

"After the operation, he must have reflected on the information we had given his wife," said Mrs Asher. "Later he was asked how the hospital could be improved as part of a quality audit. He suggested that next-of-kin be given a card showing the hospital telephone number, ward number and the name of a contact. His suggestion was adopted by the trust and has won the best user award."

Unfortunately, Mr Butcher had to return to hospital later but his wife had the opportunity to try out his suggestion. "She found it quite useful," he says. "When patients come into hospital their relatives are often in a bit of a flap. They're



Colin Hardy, of Wandsworth, helps to operate the borough's emergency service

not only having to register a death but also a birth," said Philip Ward, the borough's head of corporate services. "It's quite a trauma."

Register office staff realised that unnecessary delays, which made the process more painful for parents, could be created unknowingly by hospital doctors, coroners and by the location of the register office. They set about reforming the service.

Today staff are given bereavement training, which enables them to handle parents more sensitively. Bereaved parents are channelled into a separate room in the register office away from other parents. They are also given the opportunity to register at the hospital or in their own homes. Leaflets have been produced explaining the registration process.

Doctors are being urged — as part of their training at St George's Hospital — to write carefully when they complete certificates giving the cause of death. Illegible or badly expressed phrases could lead to delay — and heartache.

In addition, staff have negotiated a 24-hour emergency service with the coroner's office, which enables them to clear any cases in which the cause of death might require referral to that office.



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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Alba, Acal, Allen, Associated Nursing, Hadleigh Industries Group, Hazlewood Foods, Plysco, Scottish & Newcastle, TGI. Finals: Bearing Power International, Brite Mining, Faber Prest, Gel Group, H Young. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (November), M0 figures (November), provisional, Share Ownership 95 - a report on the share register survey to end-1994.

TOMORROW

Interims: Allied Colloids, Anglian, Dailywin, Leigh Interests, Midlands Electricity, Morris Ashby, Northern Ireland Electricity, Orbis, Rascal Electronics, Real Time Control, Siebe, TBI, Triplex Lloyd, Wessex Water, Zambia Consolidated Copper. Finals: Antimedes Investment Trust, Edinburgh New Tiger Trust, Edridge Pope & Co, Hozalock Group, Leeds Group, Sage Group, Shafesbury. Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics (November), figures for housing starts and completions (October).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Border TV, BTP, Caffyns, Chamberlain Phipps, Claythorne, Drummond Group, Expro Intl Group, Hill Fire, Jos Holdings (Q1), London Crenellon Co, Penna, R Wiseman Dairies, Swalec, Sterling Publishing, Wellman, WT Foods. Finals: Avon Rubber, Bess, Betsford, Carlton Communications, Celltech Group, Denby Group, Fleming Indian Investment Trust, NFC. Economic statistics: Cyclical indicators of the UK economy (Oct 2 estimate), overseas travel and tourism (Sept) index of production (Oct), gilt auction (£3bn 7½ per cent Treasury 2006).

THURSDAY

Interims: Abbeycare, Alspring Furniture, Assoc British Eng, D C Cook, Fine Art Dev, GEC, Globon Group, Great Universal Stores, Greycoat, High Inc Trust, Ideal Hardware, Maritona Group, Norbain, Rainford Group, Samuel Heath, St James Beach Hotels. Finals: Alvis, Compass Group, Dewhurst, Estates & Agency, Eve Group, Greenall Group, GWR, Lovell (Holdings), United Drug. Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades (November).

FRIDAY

Interims: Courts, Crown Eyeglass, Fuller Smith & Turner, John Swan, Scudder Latin America Investment Trust, Syllona, John Tame, Finalist: Randem Unidare. Economic statistics: Figures for construction output (Q3).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Courage write-off likely at S&N

SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE: The hot summer and a good contribution from the Center Parcs leisure operation should allow the brewing-to-pubs advance in first-half operating profits when it reports today.

However, analysts are braced for substantial write-offs from S&N's purchase this year of Courage from Foster's Brewing Group, the Australian brewer. Estimates range between £70 million and £110 million for the size of the charge to be taken on the interim figures. This will cover the cost of closing one or more of the Courage breweries.

The company, of which Brian Stewart is managing director, should benefit from better beer sales during the fine summer weather and a good performance by Chef & Brewer. The Center Parcs holiday division should also do well, although some of its activities, such as tennis and squash, may have felt the heat.

S&N became Britain's biggest brewer, with a 25 per cent share of the UK brewing market, after the £425 million Courage deal. Like other brewers, S&N is feeling some adverse effects as cross-channel booze cruises take a toll on take-home margins. However, there could be benefits for S&N from a possible link with Newcastle United, which is considering launching a chain of themed sporting pubs under the 1892 label, the year the football club was founded.

SBC Warburg has pencilled in pre-exceptional interim pre-tax profits of £157 million (£145.6 million), with an interim dividend of 6.5p (6.09p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £157 million to £170 million, with dividend expectations from 6.5p to 6.7p. Courage is expected to make a first-time partial contribution of about £7 million to operating profits.

SIEBE: The engineering group is tomorrow expected to unveil a strong advance in first-half profits driven by Foxboro, the controls operation, which is going from strength to strength in the



Scottish & Newcastle's Brian Stewart is said to have sporting theme pubs as a possible goal

United States. Pete Deighton at Merrill Lynch is looking for interim pre-tax profits to climb to £142 million (£119.5 million), with the dividend predicted to rise to 4.43p (4.03p). Market forecasts range from £141 million to £147 million. Mr Deighton said the profits advance will be driven by the control systems division, with the Foxboro operation again expected to be the star performer.

BASS: A strong performance from hotels and pubs should

offset poorer trading conditions gripping Bass's bingo and Coral betting operations. The Holiday Inns hotels business is thought to be doing well, and the company will benefit from the fine summer weather. However, the impact of the National Lottery will have been felt on the bingo and bookmaking operations.

John Spicer at SBC Warburg expects final pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to advance to £590 million (£555 million) before exceptional. Mr Spicer predicts

a total dividend of 22.7p (21.1p). Market forecasts range from £580 million to £600 million.

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS: Good advertising growth and an impressive performance from its video arm should help Michael Green's acquisitive media group to lift full-year pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to £248 million (£190 million), according to UBS. A 23.5p (20.7p) dividend is predicted. Market forecasts are £233-£255 million.

GEC: The electronic to defence conglomerate is expected to lift first-half pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, to £405 million (£378 million), according to Merrill Lynch. An interim dividend of 3.1p (2.95p) is predicted. Forecasts range from £395 million to £405 million. News is awaited on reports last week that Yarrow shipbuilders, GEC's Scottish shipyard, had won an order for three offshore patrol vessels for Brunei thought to be worth about £600 million.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY: One of the few privatised electricity companies not to have received a takeover offer is likely to draw criticism from Labour about utilities making too much money when it unveils an expected increase in profits tomorrow. Interim pre-tax profits are expected to climb to £54 million (£44.3 million), according to Panmure Gordon. Market forecasts range from £43 million to £54 million.

GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES: Thursday's half-year earnings at the home shopping to financial services group are likely to be flat at £230 million, according to UBS, because of a weaker performance from its core mail order division. Sales at the division are thought to have risen by a modest 1-2 per cent. Elsewhere, Burberry is expected to have performed well, although lending from its consumer finance division will be down against last year. UBS thinks GUS may be considering a further special dividend payout.

WESSEX WATER: Credit Lyonnais Laing expects tomorrow's first half pre-tax profits from Wessex to climb to £63 million (£58 million), with an interim dividend of 5p predicted. Market forecasts range from £61 million to £65 million. Attention will focus on current trading and prospects, as well as the possibility of a share buy-back, with the company having gained shareholder approval to buy back 10 per cent of its ordinary shares.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Output under scrutiny

Attention this week focuses on October's industrial production figures, due for release on Wednesday, and on the Confederation of British Industry's November distributive trades survey, published the following day.

Economists said they will be looking closely at the data in the wake of last week's Budget and particularly the prediction by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, of strong growth in consumer spending. City expectations are for industrial production to have dipped, or at best risen a small amount, in October as manufacturers have sought to correct a stock overhang. Forecasts were between 0.4 per cent down and 0.1 per cent up; those for key manufacturing output were between 0.5 per cent down and 0.3 per cent up.

Thursday's CBI survey will be watched for any signs of a pick-up in retail sales, particularly after last Friday's better than expected October consumer credit figures showing net lending of £372 million against about £600 million expected. Any data that show further signs of economic weakness will fuel expectations of lower short-term interest rates. Most analysts now look to the regular monetary meeting on December 13 between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, for news of a cut.

In America, the key economic focus will be on the November employment report. Adam Chester, international bond strategist with Yamaichi International, said he expects the retail and service sectors to have provided about 200,000 more jobs in the Thanksgiving period and run-up to Christmas. Signs of recovery in manufacturing employment are less likely, he said.

The quarterly Tankan key survey of Japanese business confidence, due on Friday, is expected to show another marginal drop in the main reading on business conditions, disappointing hopes of a recovery around the corner.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Coal Investments. Thorn EMI, Allen Group, Adscene. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Century Inns. Avoid Daley; Sell Gibbon Group. **The Observer:** Buy CRH; Hold Tate & Lyle; Avoid Norcross. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Caledonian Media Communications. Close Brothers, Cash Converters International. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Severn Trent, Adscene; Sell Highland.

New entrants push AIM capitalisation to £2bn

NEW companies joining the Alternative Investment Market helped push the total market capitalisation of the new market for smaller and growing companies through the £2 billion mark for the first time. Capitalisation hit £2.06 billion, while the total cash raised since AIM started on June 19 stands at £52.7 million (Philip Pangalos writes).

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterlood Securities, said

there was considerable interest in a healthy debut for Trocadero, the leisure complex spun off by Burford Holdings. Trocadero started the week at 37p and ended at 44p, while Jasmín, the electronic systems group, started at 88p and ended the week at 103p.

PolyMASC Pharmaceuticals, a biopharmaceutical company, is expected today to announce an intention to float on AIM and raise £5 million.



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The Benefits Agency would like to congratulate its staff on their success in this year's Charter Mark Scheme. The Agency won 13 Charter Marks which brings the total we hold to 25. That is more than any other single organisation. We are committed to improving the standard of service we offer to our customers. Our Charter Mark success shows we are on the right path. Each year the Agency pays more than £80 billion in social security benefits and pensions to more than 20 million customers.

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Family Credit Unit
Fife District
Highlands and Islands District
Manchester South District
Newcastle District
North Essex District
Pensions and Overseas Benefits Directorate
Wigan and Leigh District
Wirral District
Wolverhampton District
Newcastle Disability Benefits Centre

INFORMATION

For general advice on social security benefits and National Insurance contributions ring:

Freeline Social Security - 0800 666 555

This service is also available in:

Chinese 0800 252 451
Punjabi 0800 521 360
Urdu 0800 289 188
Welsh 0800 289 011

Benefit Enquiry Line - 0800 88 22 00

For benefit advice and information for people with disabilities and their carers

Forms Completion Line - 0800 44 11 44

For help with filling in claim forms

Telephone - 0800 23 33 55

Advice and information for deaf people

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
1st time (millions)	Company	Price (pence)	Wtd %	Ytd %	P/E	1st time (millions)	Company	Price (pence)	Wtd %
15.30	AMCO Corp	107	+ 5	5.3	11.8	53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	3.2
0.88	Alusac Reclut	17	...	...	...	46.40	Le Riches Sps	280	7.0
18.10	A de Gruy	123	...	5.7	10.2	...	Lithome As Trn	85	...
6.12	Alpha Gold	74	...	...	...	21.80	Lon Fiduciary	80	...
...	Alpena & Bd	14	...	...	...	2.00	London Town	180	...
11.70	Alpha Cent	21	...	...	...	12.00	Lorian Grp	210	...
40.20	Ann St Brewery	430	...	5.3	11.4	5.26	Meltek	48	...
5.30	Ann St Cy Pl	885	...	...	...	263.40	Memory Corp	445	...
84.30	Androv	120	...	...	...	6.33	Metropole Films	22	...
11.70	Art Central	73	...	...	...	12.00	Moorepay	158	...
...	Altheim Trust	55	...	...	...	19.30	Mathmedia	67	...
4.37	Bark Hidge	17	...	...	...	22.50	NWR Grp	300	...
4.12	Balcaron	46	...	...	...	...	Nash (Wm)	180	...
...	Bearers Lais	145	...	...	...	0.35	Nail Clerk	330	...
...	Born Lais Cy Pl	70	...	...	...	5.00	Nelson Cockat	205	...
5.55	Brancole Hids	58	...	...	...	...	Norcross	68	...
27.40	Brookbank	235	...	3.4	23.5	...	Norcross II	68	...
...	CD Hidge	116	...	...	...	...	Norcross III	68	...
...	CD Founder Shs	110	...	...	...	...	Norcross Res Pps	68	...
3.21	Callie Inns	115	...	2.2	9.5	18.20	Hursting Home	105	...
8.52	Callidorm Tot	75	...	...	9.1	8.60	Old English Pub	88	...
12.10	Card Club	61	...	...	...	8.30	Omnisc	88	...
3.65	Casckly Bps	70	...	5.4	10.0	12.50	Omniscadia	70	...
1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	20.8	13.30	Pacific Media	53	...
...	Cellar PI Shs	6750	...	...	...	...	Pacific Med Pl	17	...
15.40	CI Comm(VI)	114	...	2.7	14.5	617	Pier Andean Res	15	...
5.58	Charwell Int	82	...	...	...	4.66	Park Ests(LV)	195	...
13.10	ChiePartners	51	...	2.5	12.1	3.82	Preston Nth E	400	...
7.99	Cinderlat	40	...	...	...	...	Revelation Piccadilly	100	...
10.80	Country Golds	61	...	2.3	12.6	11.20	Riemel Isca	170	...
2.48	Chry Gols Pl	68	...	9.8	...	13.40	SCS Satellite	130	...
40.80	Cleas Int	114	...	...	...	4.45	Scotswood Inds	40	...
10.80	DBS Management	85	...	4.7	8.5	...	Scott Fdn	270	...
...	Dailair Int	68	...	...	...	13.00	Scotswood	270	...
3.58	David Glas	880	...	5.3	9.7	124.50	Southern News	528	...
3.21	Dawn Corp	11	...	4.2	11.9	...	Southern Vectis	58	...
97.00	Dezaphoricals Int	150	...	...	64.3	30.80	Stann Res	170	...
5.62	Euro Sales Pl	125	...	...	...	12.80	Surrey Pl Inns	125	...
...	Farfale	235	...	...	...	51.60	TRACKER Netwk	975	...
1.77	Fat Public	75	...	...	...	4.85	Tele Credit Eur	48	...
26.70	Fineprint	160	...	...	89.6	...	Tele Credit Wrs	40	...
5.53	Floral St	238	...	...	72.9	12.80	Tread	108	...
12.00	Formacan	128	...	2.0	...	...	Trinity Care	180	...
4.50	Furrow Homes	80	...	3.3	4.8	105.80	Trinity Care Pl	185	...
23.10	Gander Hids	8	...	...	88.3	...	Troscant	40	...
5.70	Greenhills	18	...	3.2	14.0	...	Univent	40	...
14.40	Gullim	155	...	...	...	8.24	Utd Auctions	463	...
5.71	Hanson	38	...	...	...	...	VDC	625	...
54.50	Hiscox Dsd Ins	120	...	0.3	...	35.70	Versailles Grp	13	...
11.20	Impt Radio	112	...	...	...	...	Vics	243	...
13.60	Inver Workings	81	...	...	...	...	Westburn Sect	12	...
21.10	Inll Gredings	503	...	...	...	...	West Sea Whins	10.38	...
4.20	Jasmin	103	...	...	...	1.72	Westmount Emr	21	...
18.70	Jennings Bros	288	...	2.5	24.7	8.42	Westmor M Mtd	78	...
38.20	KS Bloomer	101	Wynnsay Progs	140	...
25.30	Lancashire Enterprises	140	...	4.4	11.8	...	Zigzag	175	...

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5310 (-0.0295)
German mark 2.2123 (+0.0026)
Exchange index 82.8 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2670.6 (+15.8)
FT-SE 100 3680.4 (+56.4)
New York Dow Jones 5087.13 (+38.29)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18883.10 (+667.87)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.16	2.00
Austria Sch	16.62	15.12
Belgium Ft	48.61	44.91
Canada \$	2.198	2.028
Cyprus Cyp£	0.741	0.686
Denmark Kr	8.00	8.40
Finland Mk	7.17	6.52
France Fr	8.06	7.43
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	388.00	361.00
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.4700
Italy Lira	2556.00	2401.00
Japan Yen	170.50	154.60
Malta	0.592	0.597
Netherlands Gld	2.838	2.408
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	245.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	inf.	5.37
Spain Pta	166.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.68	9.88
Switzerland Ft	1.94	1.75
Turkey Lira	roller	75086.0
USA \$	1.630	1.500

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 34

GYROVAGUE
(b) Gyrovagues were monks in the Dark Ages who were accustomed to wander from place to place, converting and begging. From the Latin *gyrus* a ring + *vagari* to wander.

COMPUTATION
(a) A drinking party, from the Latin *com* in company with, *potari*, *potare* to drink.

UNLUN
(a) To defrock (metaphorically speaking) a nun for bad behaviour. A delightful and rhythmic word in itself, and apart from that a formidable Scrabble weapon, for those useless and repetitive selections of letters.

BIGGIN
(c) A silver coffee pot with a separate container which holds the coffee as it is heated.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Re3+ 2 fxe3 (2 g3 Rxe3+ doesn't help) 2 ... Qg3 mate

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Legal & General

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Weg	110	
+/-	%	PRE
21%	4.1	16.2
	2.4	18.1

[illegible][illegible]

10	29
19	29
29	72
42	94
42	...
4	...
3	...
...	...
43	73
79	61
1	81
5	20
15	22
16	22
16	22
11	39
11	39
1	39
1	39
26	115
...	...
...	...
20	18
27	18
...	...
69	112
17	...
15	...
...	...
12	10
15	10
13	27
13	10
15	...
15	...
1	...
1	...

12	140
13	176
14	200
15	224
16	248
17	272
18	296
19	320
20	344
21	368
22	392
23	416
24	440
25	464
26	488
27	512
28	536
29	560
30	584
31	608
32	632
33	656
34	680
35	704
36	728
37	752
38	776
39	800
40	824
41	848
42	872
43	896
44	920
45	944
46	968
47	992
48	1016
49	1040
50	1064
51	1088
52	1112
53	1136
54	1160
55	1184
56	1208
57	1232
58	1256
59	1280
60	1304
61	1328
62	1352
63	1376
64	1400
65	1424
66	1448
67	1472
68	1496
69	1520
70	1544
71	1568
72	1592
73	1616
74	1640
75	1664
76	1688
77	1712
78	1736
79	1760
80	1784
81	1808
82	1832
83	1856
84	1880
85	1904
86	1928
87	1952
88	1976
89	2000
90	2024
91	2048
92	2072
93	2096
94	2120
95	2144
96	2168
97	2192
98	2216
99	2240
100	2264

7	4	13
8	15	10.4
9	...	...
10	...	...
11	0.0	37.5
12	0.0	29.5
13	0.0	29.5
14	...	...
15	20	2.7

20	17.8
21	8.1
22	8.2
23	8.2
24	8.4
25	11.6
26	4.1
27	8.6
28	8.6
29	8.6
30	10.5
31	10.4
32	8.5
33	7.8
34	7.2
35	8.4
36	8.5
37	8.1
38	10.6
39	8.4
40	8.2
41	12.8
42	7.5
43	12.0
44	7.8
45	18.3
46	10.5
47	8.1
48	7.1

82 150
87 138
44 70
76 91
87 94
97 98
153 99
71 90
88 94
28 113

42 ..
23 172
28 179
28 114
23 77
28 155
87 129

39 ..
23 187
23 205
23 172
36 72
30 263
30 119
30 124

71	
68	16.7
52	16.6
59	16.5
54	16.5
47	23.4
51	23.4
58	23.2
59	23.2
38	
38	26.6
20	20.2
24	18.4
49	13.8
62	12.7
57	11.6
70	16.5
57	5.1
68	9.5
52	9.1
56	8.0
53	8.0
72	8.8
58	8.8
58	7.5
75	AM
78	AM

59 78
A 6x 40cm
glass/mirror
local date
100 index

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هكذا من الأصل

DTI mission to catch up on the road to Mandalay

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Department of Trade and Industry is to host its first sponsored mission to Burma, amid growing interest in investment opportunities there. Eligible UK companies will be offered travel grants of £1,000 each towards the visit, which is scheduled for late February. There are places for up to 20 participants.

The trip is highly controversial, given Burma's dismal record on human rights. In the past, the West has done its best to discourage investment, but interest has been steadily picking up since the release, in July, of Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy activist and Nobel laureate. Ms Suu Kyi had

been under house arrest for nearly six years. Several European countries, including the UK, Germany and France, are now actively promoting trade with Burma. The DTI has identified opportunities for export to Burma, particularly in hard currency earning sectors, such as oil, gas and tourism.

Potential earnings from tourism are said to be enormous. It is claimed that annual tourist and business arrivals have increased from under 10,000 to 100,000 in the past four years.

The ruling junta has declared 1996 "Visit Myanmar Year" — it renamed the country six years ago — and hopes to have boosted visitor numbers to 1 million by the end of the

decade. New hotels are springing up in prime destinations such as Rangoon, Pagan, Mandalay and Inle Lake. Heavy investment is required in roads, rail, power and telecommunications.

Visitors to Burma are struck by the almost total absence of British goods and services — and the speed with which some of Burma's South-East Asian neighbours have been catching in.

Air Mandalay, flying Franco-Italian ATR turboprops, was launched in October 1994 as a joint venture between Burma and Singapore. Malaysian investors have since taken a stake. Thai investors are financing Yangon Airways, a new domestic airline, which is due to start flying in January.

China supplies Burma with arms and ammunition. Money is pouring into joint ventures from Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea. Brunei is showing an interest.

Tourism provides an obvious peg for UK investors. Roads and airports are being revamped, but hotels remain woefully lacking.

Pagan, probably the most stunning destination in the whole of Asia, has only seven hotels, and is prone to water shortages. Supplies have been known to dry up completely at peak times.

Corruption is rife in Burma. Local travel representatives pay bribes of up to \$100 a time just to secure a seat on an aircraft.

Hotel bookings made weeks in advance are frequently cancelled at short notice — simply because somebody else turned up first. It is not the easiest place to do business.

Ms Suu Kyi has urged foreign investors to be extremely wary, and consider investments that will benefit the Burmese people rather than the military regime.

The argument is the same with tourism: if you go, stay in privately-run guest houses, and save your dollars for local traders and shopkeepers.

The DTI is hosting an introductory seminar on investment in Burma at the London Chamber of Commerce tomorrow. Details from Jeanette Stevens on 0171-215 8039.

Pay bonus for LDV workers

The 1,380 employees at LDV, the Birmingham vanmaker born out of the collapse of Leyland DAF in 1993, will get a pre-Christmas payout averaging £370 each after a successful year of "solid progress".

Allan Amey, chief executive, said the company would exceed its profit target this year. "We have had another year of solid progress, with vehicle output increasing twice to satisfy growing demand from UK and export customers," he said.

Pension rules

A key ruling on occupational pension schemes is expected from the Birmingham Industrial Tribunal today. Total compensation could amount to £95 million. The test case is on behalf of 60,000 part-timers claiming for back-dated benefits from occupational pension schemes.

Coal plans

Coal Investments, which acquired a number of pits from British Coal two years ago, will go to its investors early next year to raise between £10 million and £20 million. The company is launching a rights issue to achieve planned production levels of 4.3 million tonnes a year.

New market

Representatives from companies planning to join Le Nouveau Marché, France's new market for smaller companies, will be in London tomorrow before the launch for the market on the Paris Bourse next February.

Greek oil

Anastasio Peponis, the Greek Minister for Industry, was in London last week spearheading the first leg of an international road show ahead of the first licensing round for petroleum exploration in western Greece.

Young says pay-off reports are nonsense

By ERIC REGULY

LORD YOUNG of Graffham, the former chairman of Cable and Wireless, yesterday dismissed as "nonsense" newspaper reports that he is fighting for a pay-off of about £2.5 million even though he had no contract with the company.

He also suggested that a letter allegedly written by the late Lord Sharp, his predecessor, has no bearing on financial circumstances surrounding his departure. "How can a letter from [Lord Sharp] affect me?" he said.

C&W is trying to determine whether the letter from Lord Sharp, who died last year, could back any claim that Lord Young is owed a financial package. The company would not disclose the contents of the letter and apparently did not know it existed until last Friday.

C&W also wants to determine whether Lord Young has any right to be paid until February 27, 1997, when he turns 65. C&W's non-executive directors decided last month that he could remain chairman until then, and that James Ross, the chief executive, should leave within six months, but then ousted both.

Lord Young's salary was £479,000. He would receive almost £600,000 if it were determined that he is to be paid until February 1997.

Investors' compensation scheme to be reviewed

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS), the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, faces a radical overhaul to put it on a firmer financial footing.

The review has been given an added sense of urgency in view of the compensation bill it is likely to have to meet over the personal pensions mis-selling scandal. The scheme will have to step in where firms of independent financial advisers are unable to meet mis-selling compensation payouts.

The board of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog for firms selling directly to the public, where Joe Palmer is chairman and Colette Bowe is chief executive, is understood to have decided to launch the review at a meeting last month. It will begin with a discussion paper next month on ways in which the scheme can end the pay-as-you-go basis on which it has survived until now.

Since it started in 1988, the ICS has paid out nearly £100 million to 9,000 investors in 206 firms. These include Dunsdale Securities, the Levitt Group, and Diameter Stockbrokers.

The ICS has faced persistent legal challenges to the way in which it raises money. This



Colette Bowe and Joe Palmer of the PIA will launch the review with a discussion paper

summer, the PIA, which sends out bills to its members on behalf of the scheme, faced another legal challenge about the way in which it levied money from Sun Life, the insurer. The PIA was forced to postpone its annual levy and the scheme had to be bailed out by a £15 million line of credit from the Treasury to save it from going into receivership.

The PIA board is under-

stood to have taken legal advice on ways in which it could levy money, with a view to building up a fund on which there are a great deal of claims. This could be done on a product-levy basis, where every investment sold by a PIA member would include a sum to be contributed to the ICS in the same way that travel agents have a fund to cover failed holiday firms. However,

such a scheme could work only as a voluntary system, because legal experts have said that to make it compulsory would constitute raising a tax and only Parliament has those powers.

Another alternative is to pre-fund the scheme so that every year members know what they have to contribute upfront, and any amount left over would be carried forward to the next financial year.

Kvaerner piles the pressure on Amec

By OUR CITY STAFF

KVAERNER, the Norwegian industrial group, has increased the pressure on Amec shareholders to accept its £1-a-share takeover offer.

The group, owner of the Govan shipbuilding yard, says in a letter to the construction company's shareholders that its offer was final and would not be increased unless a rival bidder emerged.

Amec was last week required to drop its own takeover offer for another builder, Alfred McAlpine, after it was rejected.

In the letter, the Norwegians say: "Your board has talked about the true value of Amec's potential" but has not

provided any facts in support. In considering whether to accept our offer, you should contrast the certainty of our 100p-per-share in cash now with the uncertain future value of Amec's shares.

"The difficulty of assessing that future has already been reflected in Alfred McAlpine's speedy rejection of your board's offer to acquire the company — and that offer itself indicates that your board considers that Amec should not continue on its own in its present form."

Kvaerner speaks for 18.1 per cent of Amec shares after open-market buying since the launch of its bid.

Many companies are credit risk, says study

By OUR CITY STAFF

MORE THAN a quarter of Britain's 1.2 million limited companies are loss-making, and two-thirds of those are high-risk debtors, potentially unable to fulfil their credit commitments to suppliers, a report claimed yesterday.

As a result, many businesses find they are running up bad debts and jeopardising their own financial stability by supplying goods and services to customers who cannot pay for them, according to ICC, one of

the UK's leading providers of company data, which carried out the research.

Angela Burdett, ICC managing director, said: "Bad debtors can range from the smallest businesses to the largest corporations, and are becoming an increasing problem for British industry."

The report coincides with the launch of ICC's Credit Index, a CD-Rom giving credit information on Britain's 1.2 million trading limited companies.

Time to cut without a run

THE Budget may have been an anticlimax for the gilt market, but the prospects for lower interest rates are good. Amid the compelling global pressures for lower rates, the foreign exchange market's worries about politically motivated rate cuts in the UK are bizarrely parochial.

The recent worrying slowdown in UK economic activity is part of a global trend. Thus the deceleration in GDP growth to 2.1 per cent in the third quarter was mirrored by a similar weakening in Germany and France. Although the US economy showed a surge in the third quarter, evidence suggests that it has joined the trend.

This should dispel lingering worries on the inflation front. Gilt-market bears made much of the pick-up in UK inflation in the summer, especially since it contrasted with the downward trend elsewhere.

However, the renewed fall in October is set to continue. The recent downturn in producer price inflation, coupled

with a huge build-up in manufacturers' and retailers' stocks, suggests that retail price inflation will fall sharply early next year.

This should give the Chancellor ample room to cut interest rates. Indeed, since his Budget targets, and hence his scope for further tax cuts in next year's Budget, are based on achieving GDP growth of 3 per cent next year, he can ill afford not to. Fortunately, with the Federal Reserve and the

Bundestank also poised to cut rates, the Chancellor should also be able to do so with impunity.

It should be a similar story in the early part of next year, since the sluggish growth and subdued inflation combination will provide scope for further declines in interest rates, led by the US and Germany. This suggests that the idea floating around the foreign exchange markets that

the Chancellor will attempt to "cut and run" on interest rates in a reckless attempt to revive the Government's popularity is wide of the mark. He is likely to find that rates can be cut without prompting a calamitous run on the pound.

Interest rates may have fallen by a full 1 per cent by the middle of 1996. Indeed, the risk is that they could fall even more sharply. An obvious factor is that economic activity could disappoint. A more in-

triguing possibility is that increasing speculation that the European drive to monetary union (EMU) is faltering could force interest rates lower still.

The arguments over the terms and timing of EMU are raising the political and economic temperature. In Germany, the public's reluctance to lose the mark has led to calls for tougher membership criteria. In France, strikes are highlighting the Government's dif-

ficulties in meeting the budget deficit criteria for entry into EMU.

Repeated scares about the viability of EMU may spark financial market turmoil and damage business and consumer confidence. Since this would also be coupled with bursts of strength in the mark, the Bundesbank might be forced to cut interest rates further.

The UK should be able to capitalise on this by cutting interest rates too. Although sterling might initially be under pressure against the mark, the combination of weaker European economic activity and cuts in German interest rates would create the way for cuts in the UK.

Indeed, with a not insignificant risk of a breakdown in the EMU project, if not at next week's EU summit in Madrid, at next year's inter-governmental conference, the gilt market could reap a substantial economic and political gain.

MARK CLIFFE
HSBC Markets

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1995-96

ALLIED IRISH BANKS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. ("AIB") for an Act under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise statement of the substance of the Bill.

To provide for the vesting in AIB Group Northern Ireland plc of the part of the banking and related businesses of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc which are situated in Northern Ireland, in relation to the business of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc, and to provide for the vesting in AIB Group Northern Ireland plc of the part of the banking and related businesses of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc which are situated in Northern Ireland, in relation to the business of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc, and to provide for the vesting in AIB Group Northern Ireland plc of the part of the banking and related businesses of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc which are situated in Northern Ireland, in relation to the business of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc, and to provide for the vesting in AIB Group Northern Ireland plc of the part of the banking and related businesses of AIB Group Northern Ireland plc which are situated in Northern Ireland, in relation to the business of AIB Group Northern Ireland 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After privatisation, the private finance initiative. If there was a big idea in the Budget, it was the accelerated drive to force the private sector to design, build, finance and operate what used to be public-sector investments. On Government plans, the private sector might own £14 billion of such assets in ten years' time. So far, however, most of effort has been made in the public sector, and by lawyers, accountants, consultants and investment bankers who alone can be certain of making money from it.

Treasury cynics have been persuaded that the PFI programme will happen. Labour, which campaigned for British Rail to be allowed to lease trains, would pragmatically follow the Tory lead. Labour opponents of private finance in health and education merely suspect ministers' motives. Labour ministers need not doubt their own motives.

Some converted mandarins already believe that the private sector's efficiency will more than compensate for its higher capital costs. Cash-starved vice-chancellors and health quangos have been enthused by the vision: they might finally achieve those cherished capital projects that are knocked off the budget every year. Price Waterhouse will train up to 10,000 civil servants in the mysteries of PFI. The business-led Private Finance Panel will

Business needs the vision to make this big idea fly



SIR CHRISTOPHER BLAND

have someone at the elbow of seven Whitehall permanent secretaries. Eventually, rougher town hall folk may be inducted into the rituals.

These are, however, only the potential customers for services that new roads, hospitals or incinerators provide. Business has to do the work, finance the projects and take risks over many years.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the Private Finance Panel, accepts that the private sector does not yet have enough of the corporate vehicles needed to handle PFI projects on the scale now planned. But he argues that market forces will soon follow the business. Sir Alastair Morton, who led the panel until the latest Eurotunnel crisis, bemoans the lack of really big British public service operators such as France's Générale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux. "One longs" he muses "to see ICI, Shell, BP, and RTZ bringing their historic project management and facilities operating skills into this new field of business."

No single solution is likely. There

is a huge difference between a regional facility for burning clinical waste, promoted with no fuss by Northumbrian Water, and the £2.7 billion Channel Tunnel rail link, which will dominate early PFI numbers. The two French utility groups, along with French mega-contractor Bouygues, were deeply embedded in Britain before Lyonnaise bought Northumbrian. Together with British water companies, they would have no trouble revamping Scotland's water and

sewage services via PFI contracts. Hospitals and prisons can likewise attract existing British or American expertise and financing. Where the long-term service element is less intensive, well-financed builder/developers such as Taylor Woodrow, John Laing and P&O could show the way, along with the more able commercial property developers.

Once lawyers and accountants sort out the mind-bogglingly complex contracts, so that new projects can be set up faster, routine projects can steam ahead, though the time gap could cost a further 35,000 construction jobs. The perils of PFI and the inadequacies of the private sector centre on projects over £100 million — mainly on roads and other transport infrastructure — which would make up the bulk of the mooted £14 billion. Even before such projects start, heavy bidding costs and planning delays raise the risks. So bidders will seek long contracts requiring even more funding.

The most famous precedents offer little help. Trafalgar House's

Dartford Bridge was a financial success, but luckily had revenues from an existing tunnel to help financing. The disasters of Eurotunnel ensure that the public will not back client companies that take the risk but have little control. Outside investors will only back projects that are up and running.

Last month, I argued that the construction industry was undercapitalised and needed bigger firms. Since then, Tarmac has swapped divisions with Wimpey and Kvaerner has bid for Amec. This shake-up is only just beginning. It will need to involve bigger, more broadly based groups. Consortia set up to bid for design-and-build road contracts do not look stable enough to handle long-term PFI investment. And there are too many of them. Early contracts could go at such low prices that financial disasters during the learning process discredit the PFI.

In ten years' time, London could have a quoted motorway sector like Spain's. British utilities, whose efforts to diversify are now derided, might be allowed to spread their wings. Pension funds might own chunks of universities. None of this will happen unless the City's institutional investors and fund managers — now mostly as ignorant as they are sceptical — become the educated converts to PFI that ministers hope will soon fill Whitehall.

Whisky mixes with a younger set



The Budget provided an overdue lift for Scotch whisky

The famous grouse that symbolises the whisky of the same name would look at home amid the steady drizzle sweeping over the pine trees of Speyside and down to the bubbling stretch of the Spey passing by Tamdhu distillery.

But it is not here, at the heart of one of Scotland's main whisky producing areas, that The Famous Grouse is doing its bit for its owner, Highland Distilleries, or for the luffing up of the whisky industry in general. The latest advertising push for The Famous Grouse is keen to divorce the game bird from its heathery background and instill a measure of fun into the brand.

Now the bird is becoming a more amusing character. A whisky with water is depicted by the grouse standing in a pool of water and is indicative of a general drive to bring whisky drinking to a wider audience.

The grouse is adapting, along with the rest of the industry, to chase a domestic market in which dark spirits are tumbling increasingly down the trendy agenda. Whisky is at an image crossroads as it tries to tuck itself

Christine Buckley finds a new spirit abroad in the industry

into divergent niches. A myriad of different types of whisky are attempting to intoxicate a wide range of lifestyles.

Bell's is targeting the all-important younger drinker with increased advertising in magazines such as *GQ* and *Esquire*. There is concern in the industry to stop whisky skipping a generation. It has long been the case that whisky drinkers come to the spirit beyond the age of 35, after a youth of sinking pints. Bell's is now promoting whisky bars in nightclubs where the emphasis is on drinking whisky with a mixer.

Whisky drinking, marketing strategists believe, has an undeveloped sensibility. Heavily jumped on by fairly safe bets to stroll off the last green and indulge in a malt at the 19th. Not so late-night revellers who may perceive whisky as one step away from the pipe and slippers.

Mixing whisky with anything but ginger ale has been

frowned upon by many loyal drinkers, but it is increasingly fuelling the resurgence of the drink overseas. Where the younger market is just starting to be courted in the UK, it is positively thriving in other parts of the globe.

In Thailand young club goers will consider drinking little else. Groups of friends buy bottles for their tables, where they will be shared as diners share wine. Thailand is the single biggest market for Johnnie Walker Black Label, which, with Bell's, is part of the Guinness whisky stable. Black Label outsells Chivas Regal, its nearest competitor, there by four to one. In Italy drinking single malt whisky with Coke is positively *de rigueur*.

Further image raising for whisky has been effected by the lifting of the ban on television advertising for spirits. So far no whisky producer has taken TV advertising nationwide after moving to regional campaigns, especially in Scotland and the Grampian region, after the ban was rescinded in September. But several have said they are on the verge of full-scale advertising in the new year.

Then there is the piquant issue of price. Whisky producers are both suffering from tight prices and benefiting from the big shift downwards which has seen own-brands, particularly those produced by supermarkets, steadily increase their presentation and quality and lift sales. The older single malts produced by Sainsbury and other leading supermarkets are gradually increasing their reputation, so that buyers are feeling less urgency to heave their purchases straight into decanters, leaving their guests in doubt about their origins. Cheaper prices are instilling a more everyday character into whisky.

The urgency of the industry's quest for growth opportu-

nities has been sharpened by the increasing price pressures in the UK. Prices of blended whiskies and single malts have tumbled as the super-markets have tightened their grip, pressing suppliers to squeeze margins. Forcing own-brands into the smallest price range has pushed whisky producers to talk of collective action in setting their charges. They have, however, stopped short of this and such a concerted effort seems unlikely.

They are also under intense pressure to reverse drifting sales in the home market. Whisky sales for home use have been on the slide for many years and the decline over the past five years has been gradual but unrelenting. It has fallen from 41 million bottles in 1990 to 37.3 million last year.

The Budget's favourable treatment of whisky, with its 4 per cent immediate reduction in duty on spirits — which means a 20 per cent reduction on the price of a litre bottle — will provide a welcome lift, especially in the important pre-Christmas trade. It will stimulate exports — a crucial area for Scotch whisky — but whisky producers are still baying for more action that will reduce the discrepancy between the duty on spirits and that charged on wines and beer.

It is too early to say if the reversal of duty to its level of last winter, before the Government levied an extra amount after its move to increase VAT on fuel was defeated, will make for a transformation of the UK whisky market.

For the large players such as Guinness and Allied Domecq the impact on profits will not be huge, given their large exposure to overseas markets. But for the smaller independent companies, such as Macdonald Martin, Burn Stewart and Highland Distilleries, the boost will be invigorating. The grouse is likely to find the world away from its traditional heater more lucrative and more receptive than it expected.

Twin peeks

THE secret is out. David and Frederick Barclay, the reclusive twins who recently added the Ritz and The Scotsman to their collection, do have a distinguishing characteristic. Anyone fortunate enough to recognise them — they are prone to suing anyone who dares to publish their photograph — should examine their hair. Frederick parts his on the left; David on the right. These, and other facts about the 61-year-old brothers, surface in the January issue of *Harpers & Queen*. The twins, reputedly worth £500 million, are at their most visible in Monte Carlo, where they have a fine apartment, and breakfast daily at the Café de Paris. But don't bother sitting in the Ritz lobby with a copy of *Harpers* on your lap, hoping for a sight of them — the article has no photograph.

Over-qualified

YOU always suspected it: university degrees are not an instant ticket to the boardroom. Shortlisted candidates without degrees applying for management positions had a better chance of making it than more highly educated rivals, a survey has found. Non-degree holders had a one in four chance of success, compared with one in five for degree holders. Elisabeth Marx, head of psychological assessment at NB Selection,



the recruitment consultant, said: "Qualities like motivation, management style and ability to adapt to change are a better indication of a candidate's chances of success."

THESE lawyers sure know how to party. Martin Winter, senior partner-elect at Biddle & Co, the City law firm, was mingling with Sir Robin Day and other celebrities on Thursday evening at a party to mark the firm's 50th year in the shadow of St Paul's. Winter let slip that he was in the midst of finalising two big deals for Garmore that evening, and had dragged himself away from his desk to quaff a little champagne with his guests. The first deal was clinched at 2am, the second at 3am Friday. "I didn't get any sleep," croaks Winter, who spent the rest of the day jending off remarks about the state of his suit.

Rembrandts of cinema

Cinema 100: Alchemists of Light. Radio 3, 9.15pm.

Colin Ford's interviews with ace lighting cameramen, whose cinematic artistry has consciously or unconsciously impressed us, begin with Vilmos Zsigmond. Painters, he says, are poets with light. The same can be said of Zsigmond. You only have to think of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Deer Hunter*, and *Deliverance* to appreciate this. It is said to have been a cinematographer of his dissection admitting that, because film-making is increasingly becoming governed by big business, limitations are imposed on his artistic input. It is as if a patron were to tell Rembrandt: "Don't bother about all that light and shade nonsense. Just get on with it!"

The Monday Play: Darling. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

Frederic Raphael's reworking of his 1965 Oscar-winning screenplay gives us another chance to run a finger gingerly along the sharp edge of his dialogue. It can still draw blood, though the sexually overactive model who becomes a princess (Julie Christie on film, Amanda Radman on radio) is very much a creature shaped by the Swinging Sixties. The world of *Darling* is a place where amoral socialites do not ask each other how they are doing, but who, and where marital fidelity means a woman not having more than one man in her bed at the same time. By using the F-word, Raphael's radio version shows how far literary permissiveness has travelled since *Darling* made its debut in 1963. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.00am Chris Warren 8.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Vanson 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Apache Indian 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Praise for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Steve 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg, Thanks for the Memory 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with Denise Band Days, and at 8.00pm Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Enchanted Evenings 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve Macdon 3.00 Max Lister

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, Inc. at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.25 The Magazine, Inc. at 10.25 Euronews, 11.05 Going Bananas 12.00 Midday with Mark 12.30pm Moneyweek 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05pm Ruse on Five, Inc. at 2.35pm Actually, Inc. at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverdale Nelsonville, Inc. at 4.45 Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra, Inc. at 7.50pm 7.25pm Sportsweek 8.00 The Monday Take, Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry 10.05pm News Talk 11.00pm News Extra, Inc. at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05pm All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Robinson 4.00pm Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00pm Ben Bolger 9.00pm Max Dale 10.00pm James White 1.00-6.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, Delius (The March of Spring, North Country Sketches); Rachmaninov (Piano Trio No 2 in D minor, Elegiac); Vaughan Williams (Serenade to Music); 7.30 Mozart (Symphony No 30 in D); 8.05 Gerwyn Owen (Piano); 8.15 The Three-Cornered Hat; 8.30 Schumann (Accompaniment to a Film Scene); Debussy (Rouge et Chénine, soprano, Vivaldi (Lungi del vago volo); 10.15 Scherzino (Accompaniment to a Film Scene); Debussy (Rouge et Chénine, soprano); 10.30 Scherzino (Piano); 10.45 Scherzino (Piano); 10.55 Scherzino (Piano); 11.05 Scherzino (Piano); 11.15 Scherzino (Piano); 11.25 Scherzino (Piano); 11.35 Scherzino (Piano); 11.45 Scherzino (Piano); 11.55 Scherzino (Piano); 12.05 Scherzino (Piano); 12.15 Scherzino (Piano); 12.25 Scherzino (Piano); 12.35 Scherzino (Piano); 12.45 Scherzino (Piano); 12.55 Scherzino (Piano); 1.05 Scherzino (Piano); 1.15 Scherzino (Piano); 1.25 Scherzino (Piano); 1.35 Scherzino (Piano); 1.45 Scherzino (Piano); 1.55 Scherzino (Piano); 2.05 Scherzino (Piano); 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Forte sold Lillywhites

Forte recruits Wall Street warrior to aid defence

By ERIC REGULY

SIR ROCCO FORTE, chairman of the Forte hotels and restaurants group, has secretly enlisted the help of one of Wall Street's most feared investment bankers to advise on his defence against Granada's £3.4 billion takeover bid.

Roberto Mendoza, vice-chairman of JP Morgan, has moved from New York to London to be at Sir Rocco's side during the battle and is assisting in the preparation of the defence document, which is to be

published on Thursday or Friday. His appointment provides further evidence that Sir Rocco is gearing up for what is expected to be one of the City's nastiest takeover battles.

Forte said that Mr Mendoza is "on loan" from JP Morgan, but said that both he and JP Morgan will be paid for their work. This suggests that Mr Mendoza will be able to draw on JP Morgan's considerable expertise in takeover battles.

confidence in America's Morgan Stanley and SBC Warburg, Forte's main advisers.

Sir Rocco and Mr Mendoza, both 50, have been close friends since their school days at Downside and later went to Oxford together. Mr Mendoza was born in Cuba and has been described in the press as a "firebrand" mergers and acquisitions specialist. In the late 1980s, he advised Hoffman-La Roche on its \$4.2 billion offer for Sterling Drug. He was also a director of Banesto, Spain's fourth-largest bank. He

and the rest of the Banesto board were dismissed by the Bank of Spain last year during Banesto's financial crisis.

Forte announced over the weekend that it has sold Lillywhites, the sports retailer best known for its Piccadilly Circus location, for £28.5 million in cash to Jeronimo Martins, a Portuguese retailer. Martins had approached Forte before Granada launched its bid on November 22. Forte said that the Lillywhites sale was part of the group's effort to focus on its hotels

and restaurants. It said that it has sold about £900 million of non-core businesses since 1993.

Granada said that the Lillywhites sale was insignificant. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, said: "Lillywhites is a peripheral business and any competent management would have sold it years ago instead of being seduced by the prestige of the name."

Forte's defence document is expected to disclose further plans to make the company more focused. Further disposals are in the works.

The Travelodge budget hotel chain in the US is on the auction block and, in Britain, the 70 White Hart hotels will probably be sold for about £100 million. Forte also wants to sell its 25 per cent stake in Alpha Airports Group, the airport retailing and catering company.

Forte will argue that the upturn in the hotels market will make its collection of luxury hotels, including the Savoy chain, increasingly valuable. Granada has accused Forte of being wedded to "trophy" hotels because of their glamour.

Further delay for Channel rail link

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to award the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link contract by the year-end have been thrown into disarray by a disagreement between the Treasury and the Department of Transport over the two shortlisted bidders.

The Government had hoped to name the winner of the competition in the middle of this month. However, the complexity of the negotiations means that talks are now certain to drag on into the new year and an announcement is now not expected until late next month or early February.

The shortlisted consortiums are EuroRail, a traditional contractor-led group that includes BICC and Trafalgar House, and London & Continental Railways, a transport-led consortium that includes Virgin and National Express but has no contractors on board. They are in round-the-clock discussions with officials on outstanding issues.

Industry insiders said that

while the Department of Transport favoured the EuroRail bid because of its relative simplicity, the Treasury was suspicious of a contractor-led approach in the wake of the Eurotunnel fiasco.

One source said: "What they want to avoid is another massive, high prestige project where the contractors run wildly over budget, hand it over to the operators and then walk away." A separate round of talks with Treasury officials following months of negotiations with the Department of Transport got under way last month.

The Channel Tunnel, at £10 billion, cost about twice as much to build as originally forecast and has saddled the operator, Eurotunnel, with debts of £3 billion.

While the Government has made no financial contribution to the construction of the Channel Tunnel and is prevented by law from bailing it out, the builders of the rail link will receive up to £2 billion in cash and assets from the taxpayer.

The building of the link, which will trim half an hour from the journey time from London to Paris, is by far the biggest project of the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI), which was given a boost by Kenneth Clarke in the Budget last week.

The complexity of the negotiations has underscored the difficulties facing the Government in pursuing the PFI. The long-standing Treasury principle that only public funds should be used to finance public works means that few officials have much experience in contracts of this kind.

A source from one of the bidders said: "There are whole rainforests of paper work being used up every single day. I just cannot see that we can do everything that is asked of us in the time required. They have just made the process too complex. Last week, we were getting amended paperwork sent back to us and that is the third time we have had to go back and revisit the some of these issues."

The process is being further complicated by delays in the enabling legislation that has to be in place before construction work can begin. The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill is still bogged down in its committee stage and is not expected to complete its passage through Parliament before the general election.

Work on the link will start in late 1997 at the earliest and it will not be in place until about 2003. France has had its fast link from Paris to the Channel Tunnel in place since before Eurostar services began last year and Belgium's will open late next year.



Miners at Tower Colliery in mid-Glamorgan have achieved record results from an "unviable" pit, making a profit of almost £2 million

Littlewoods targeted by break-up bidders

By MARTIN WALLER

THE family who own Littlewoods, the pools-to-retail business, have received an approach from two quoted retailers interested in buying and breaking up the group.

N Brown, the mail order retailer 53 per cent owned by Sir David Alliance, chairman of Coats Viyella, and Iceland Group, the frozen food chain, have put together a break-up bid with the help of Victor Blank at Charterhouse Bank, who fashioned the consortium purchase of Woolworth 13 years ago. The 32 family

members at Littlewoods will meet on Thursday. A study has already been commissioned into the group's future. The break-up bid will be added to other options, which include a flotation, or a scheme to buy shares from family members. Sources close to Littlewoods said it was unlikely to respond formally to the Brown/Iceland approach until next spring at the earliest.

Under the break-up plan the pools side could be sold to Ladbroke.

Asda lays its plans to shop round the clock

By SARAH BAGNALL

ASDA is to keep three of its stores open for a marathon 40 hours and a further number for about 16 hours in a bid to win Christmas trade.

Stores in Clapham, south London, Edinburgh and Watford will open at 8.30am on Friday December 22 and trade for all of Friday night and Saturday, closing finally at midnight on Saturday December 23. The doors are only shutting at midnight because Sunday trading laws restrict supermarkets to six hours of trading. The stores will open

between 10am and 4pm.

Asda is also considering keeping a significant number of its 200 stores open until midnight on Saturday. The move follows the group's successful trial of shopping round the clock last Christmas. Asda found that 5,000 shoppers visited the store between 10pm and 8am on December 22 and December 23.

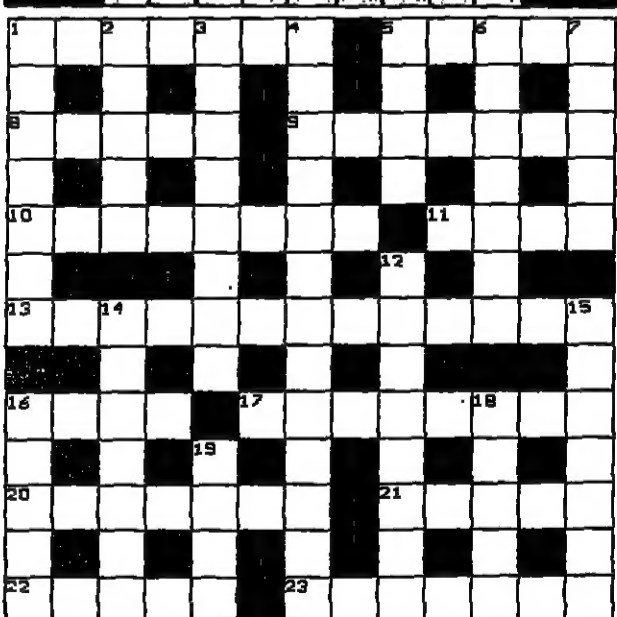
Tesco said it was not following Asda's lead but that tomorrow loyalty cardholders could shop in 80 of its stores until 11pm.

Miners dig up record result

SOUTH Wales miners have turned an "unviable" pit into a profitable one in less than a year. Tower Colliery, at Hirwaun in mid-Glamorgan, was closed by British Coal, but the miners, led by Tyrone O'Sullivan, were convinced that there was a market for its anthracite. And last January, after contributing about £3,000 each from their redundancy money, the miners bought and reopened the pit.

During the year, they have achieved record results, making a profit of almost £2 million on a turnover of £19 million. A million pounds is to be reinvested in a new face at the pit.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 643

ACROSS

- 1 Put down carefully (7)
- 5 Bird: pastime (5)
- 8 Christmas gift-bringer (5)
- 9 Royal insignia (7)
- 10 Charlotte Brontë novel (8)
- 11 Ineffective: conceited (4)
- 12 What a surprise! (4,1,5,3)
- 13 Wind-direction indicator (4)
- 17 Attached to cause; resistance fighter (8)
- 20 Very unimportant (7)
- 21 Delight: a composer (5)
- 22 Having long limbs (5)
- 23 Bondage (7)

DOWN

- 1 Deny responsibility (for) (7)
- 2 Refusing to punishment (5)
- 3 Cut of pork (5-3): Eve's origin (5,3)
- 4 Dramatically regain upper hand (4,3,6)
- 5 Enormous (4)
- 6 Traffic-island post (7)
- 7 Long: ache (5)
- 12 Spinal column segment (8)
- 14 Upstairs passage (7)
- 15 Succession of kings (7)
- 16 Crucially important (5)
- 18 Set of rooms: group of attendants (5)
- 19 Large town (4)

SOLUTION TO No 642

ACROSS: 1 Jubilee 5 Baker 8 Meals 9 Close up
10 Old wives' tale 12 Eulogy 14 Stance 17 Haute couture
21 Culprit 22 Plead 23 Match 24 Hotspur

DOWN: 1 Jamboree 2 Bland 3 Lasting 4 Exceed 5 Boost
6 Kremlin 7 Rap 11 Defender 13 Leaflet 15 Trumpet 16 Scotch
18 Torah 19 Use up 20 Scam

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City Oscars to include new category for AIM

By MARTIN BARROW

NOMINATIONS are being sought for the 1995 PLC Awards, the City's Oscars, which recognise the achievements of smaller quoted companies.

The awards, sponsored by Coopers & Lybrand in association with The Times, are entering their 10th anniversary year. They culminate in the annual dinner, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on March 14, 1996. The event, a highlight of the City's social calendar, was sold out in August.

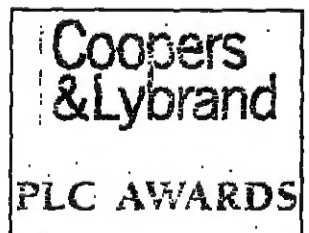
The main awards will be for the company of the year, the new company of the year, the entrepreneur of the year and the best-performing share. Awards will also be presented in the categories of best annual report, best-performing small-

er company fund and, for the first time, AIM company of the year. The PLC Achievement award will be presented to a City professional who has made a significant contribu-

tion to the development of smaller quoted companies. Letters seeking nominations are being sent to table hosts, with responses required by January 1996. Sponsors of

awards will compile a shortlist, which will be voted on by a panel made up of sponsors, brokers and analysts. Finally, readers of The Times will be invited to vote on a second shortlist, using coupons to be published in February.

Sponsors of individual awards are College Hill Associates; Albert E Sharp; Credit Lyonnais Laing; Winterlood Securities; Burrows; Peel, Hunt; and Edge & Ellison. Winners in the 1994 PLC Awards included First Technology (company of the year), Dominick Hunter Group (new company of the year), David Lloyd (entrepreneur of the year) and Hawtill Whiting (best-performing share). The inaugural PLC Achievement award was presented to Brian Winterlood.



'Division' over bid for Swalec

A faction within Welsh Water is opposed to its proposed £850 million bid for South Wales Electricity (Swalec), Rhodri Morgan, MP for Cardiff West and Labour spokesman on water in Wales, says.

The stock market is braced for a hostile bid from Welsh Water within days after talks between the two companies broke down last week.

Welsh Water announced an opening offer of between 825p and 840p a share for Swalec. A meeting between both companies on Thursday saw Welsh Water raise its "indicative" cash and share bid to 916p per share. That offer was also rejected, and the water company was expected to "go hostile" and mount an opposed bid, perhaps as early as today.

But Mr Morgan said some of the management of the core water business within Welsh Water were against such a bid because they feared the high borrowings it would entail would require cuts in promised spending on cleaning up Welsh beaches.

Higher pay

Pay rises have climbed to their highest level for three years, outpacing inflation to reach 3.5 per cent, an Industrial Relations Services report says. Deals remained at 3 per cent for the first six months of the year, rising to 3.1 per cent in July and August and 3.2 per cent in September before jumping to 3.5 per cent last month.

Pearson move

Pearson, the media group, is examining the books of Select TV, the independent television production house, with a view to making a bid.

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